

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers,

A four week half term feels incredibly intense as we've squeezed in so much over the last month. Notably, our Year 13 and 11 students are well underway with their examinations. They have been brilliantly focused up to now! Our new building and assistive technology have served us all well and the examinations teams are exceptional. The season isn't just about sitting exams; there are many other activities such as the submission of crucial coursework and assessments that form part of final grades, as well as the examinations that take longer to do such as Art and Drama. Thank you to all our staff and well done to our students so far.



We say a fond farewell to two members of staff this half term; Mr Few (Assistant Headteacher and DSL) and Mrs Roe (a key member of our SEN team). We're delighted to welcome Mr Partridge, who'll be our new DSL from immediately after the half term. He's very excited to join us from Southam College.

Another farewell to our old building as demolition has begun this week. It feels as though we've been in our lovely new school for some time now- it's amazing how we settle in quickly and assimilate change as human beings!

I wish everyone a relaxing half term break.

Ms Bridge



Important Notice

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that **Kineton High School** keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll. The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

We request that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

*N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.*

Spring Term Calendar

- ♦ *Monday 26th to Friday 30th May - Half term*
- ♦ *Thursday 5th June - Year 9 reports issued*
- ♦ *Friday 6th to Saturday 7th June - Bronze DofE Qualifying Event*
- ♦ *Thursday 12th June - Year 8 reports issued*
- ♦ *Monday 16th June - Year 10 Virtual 'Get Ready for Mocks' Evening 6pm*
- ♦ *Monday 16th to Thursday 19th June - Year 10 Geography trips*
- ♦ *Wednesday 18th June - Kineton Awards Evening (from 4.15pm)*
- ♦ *Tuesday 24th June - Pride Picnic (lunchtime)*
- ♦ *Wednesday 26th June - MAD Arts Festival 5.30-7pm*
- ♦ *Thursday 26th June - Year 12 Induction Day*
- ♦ *Thursday 26th June - Sixth Form Prom*
- ♦ *Friday 27th June - Teacher training day (school closed to students)*
- ♦ *Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June - Silver DofE Qualifying Event*
- ♦ *Wednesday 2nd July - Year 6 Induction Day and New Parents Evening*
- ♦ *Wednesday 2nd to Sunday 6th July - Gold DofE Qualifying Event*
- ♦ *Thursday 3rd July - Year 7 reports issued*
- ♦ *Thursday 3rd July - Year 11 Prom*
- ♦ *Monday 7th to Friday 11th July - Enrichment Week and Work Experience*
- ♦ *Monday 8th July - Year 12 reports issued*
- ♦ *Thursday 17th July - Year 10 reports issued*
- ♦ *Friday 18th July - end of summer term, school finishes at 1.10pm*

80th Anniversary

VE DAY

COMMEMORATION



New Student President Team

We are delighted to announce our new Student President Team have been appointed for the upcoming year. The selection process involved presenting their campaigns to Sixth Form; a whole school vote and interviews with Ms Bridge and Mr Gowney-Hedges, and the current Student Presidents.

Our congratulations go to:

Presidents: Saiorse C and Theo S

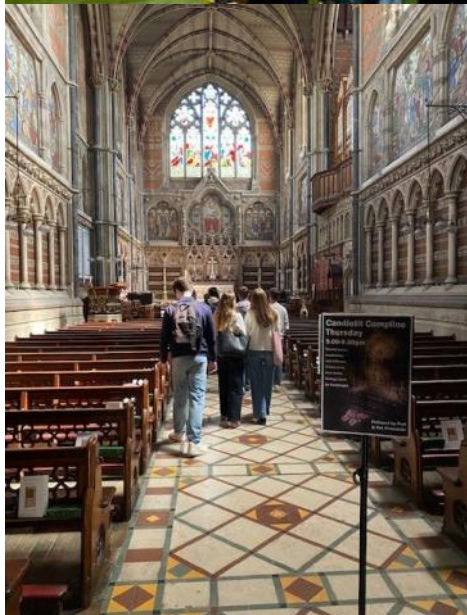
Vice Presidents: Benjy B and Otto W

Mr Bonfield, Head of Sixth Form



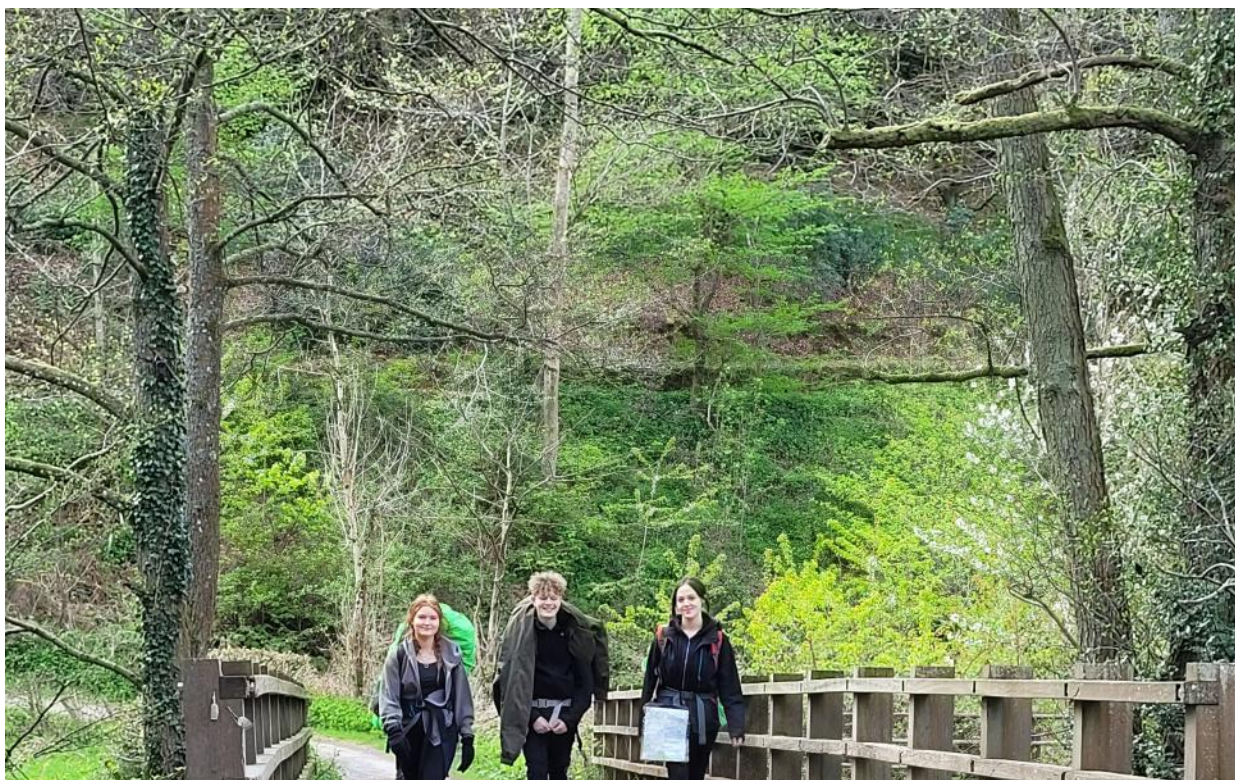
Year 12 visit Keble College

On Wednesday 7th May a group of Year 12 students visited Keble College, Oxford. They started with a trip to the Norrington room in Blackwell's bookshop, then went onto Keble College for a talk on Oxbridge followed by a tour including the famous chapel. Lunch was taken in the dining hall, and afterwards there was a talk on how to approach personal statements. The day ended with a tour of another college and a search for the pet tortoise.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The busy expedition season has now arrived. We kicked off with the Gold practice expedition during the Easter holidays. This saw 13 year 12 students head off to The Black Mountains in Wales. It started off very wet and windy, they all coped but there were some very wet students. The 1st day saw a few navigational challenges, but they stuck at it and arrived at camp still in good spirits. Day 2 and 3 saw an improvement in the weather and they worked well together gaining lots of valuable experience in navigation and also hopefully in what needs packing for the qualifying in July.



The Bronze practice has also just taken place with 45 intrepid year 9 students enjoying some glorious weather (for a change on a Dofe expedition) They were all enthusiastic and raring to go, weighed down by some very large rucksacks. Some may need to rethink their packing before the qualifying expedition. Saturday saw some navigational challenges for some groups, but all groups sorted themselves out and arrived at camp unaided. They enjoyed a relaxing evening, playing Uno, football or just sat around chatting. A wide variety of things were cooked and eaten, marshmallows toasted and eventually they settled to a night in tents.

Clearly, they were not tired enough as 4.30/5am they were up. All groups were organised and ready to leave again by 7.30am. Sunday the weather was again glorious, if getting a little warm but there was no complaining from the groups I was with. Almost everyone finished with a smile on there face and a sense of pride in what they had achieved.

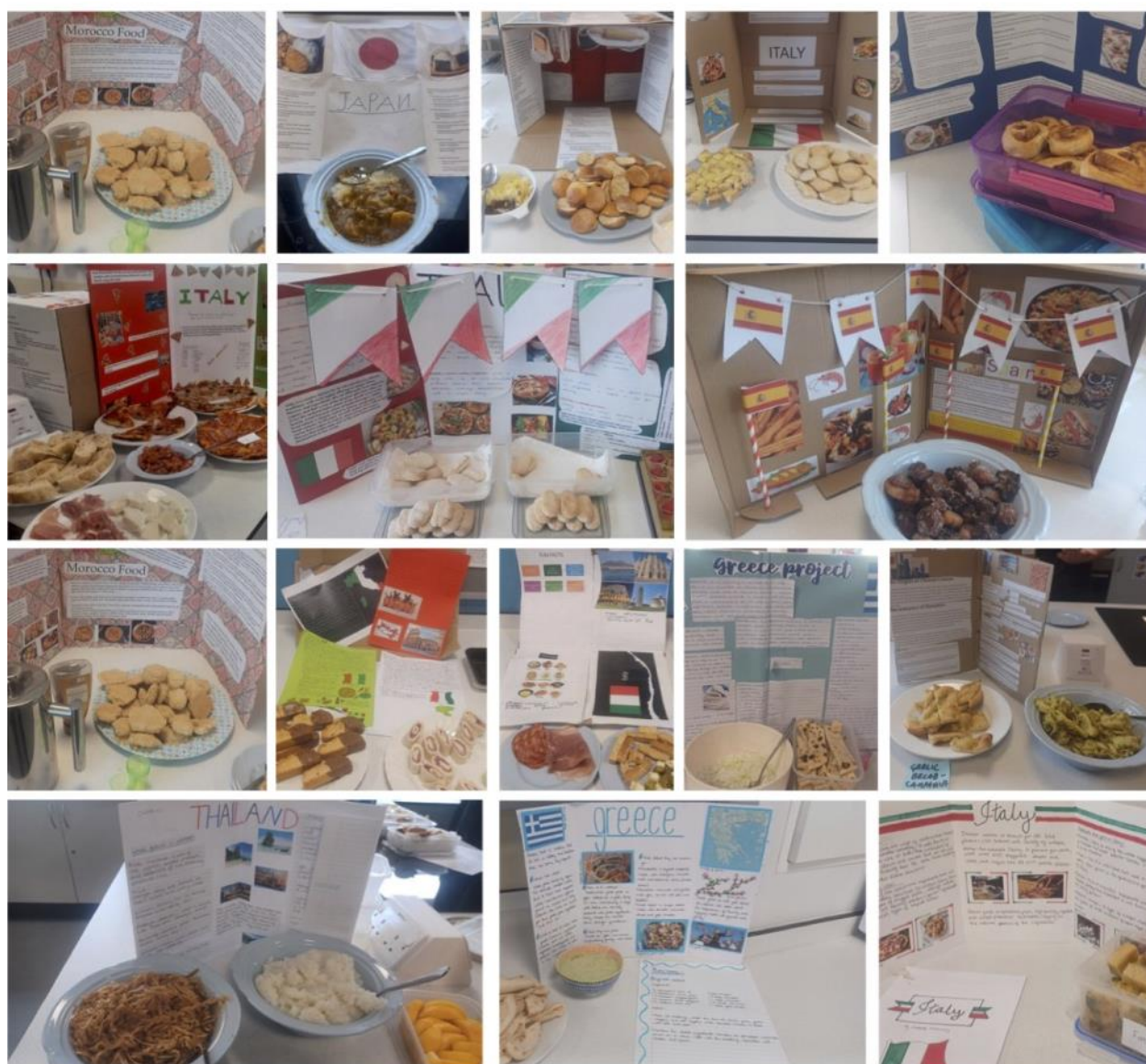


Next up is the Bronze qualifying 6th & 7th June, Silver Qualifying 27th to 29th June and the Gold qualifying 2nd to 6th July.

Year 9 World Food Projects

Well done to Year 9 who created some fantastic dishes and displays for their World Food Projects. The food was wonderful and really took us on a journey all around the world!

Ms Jordan, Head of DT



Year 7 Bourton on the Water trips

Just after the Easter break, students in Year 7 enjoyed day trips to Bourton on the Water. They developed their Geography fieldwork skills, enhanced their knowledge on Tourism and took part in a variety of geographical tasks. There was also time to visit the chip shop and buy some sweets!



Former Student: Sophie Wootton

Huge congratulations to former KHS student Sophie Wootton who was a contestant on The Great Pottery Throw Down in 2024! In a recent article in Prima magazine, Sophie said that without the show, she's not sure she would have pursued pottery as a career. Sophie's collection can be viewed at www.sophiewoottondesign.com



MEET the CRAFTIER

Sophie Wootton

'Being on the TV show COMPLETELY CHANGED MY LIFE'

Sophie Wootton was a contestant on *The Great Pottery Throw Down* in 2024. Here, she tells Imogen Cooper how it ended up giving her the confidence she needed to follow her dreams.

How did you get into pottery?
My degree was in design crafts at De Montfort University, and that was the first time I touched clay. It's so tactile and I loved being able to have an idea in my head and get it out into a physical form. During my final year of uni, I applied to be on *The Great Pottery Throw Down* and found out I was going on the show as I graduated.

What was it like to be a *Throw Down* contestant? I always say it was the most stressful thing I've done, but also the most fun I've ever had. You're forced to push yourself out of your comfort zone, making things you've never made before. It was so fun to discover what

The Great Pottery Throw Down's class of 2024

Sports News

Cricket



Well done to our U13 cricket team who won their match against Princethorpe on Friday 1st May.

Netball



Huge congratulations to our Year 9 girls team for winning the south Warwickshire Plate Final on Tuesday 1st April.

Rugby



On Thursday 27th March our 9 and 10 boys team won their friendly match against Campion.

Tennis



Our boys team took part in the Slams Tennis competition on Thursday 15th May and came 5th overall.

Sports News

Football



Well done to our Year 7 boys team who played Shipston on Tuesday 18th March and came away with a 8-1 win!



On 14th March it was the Year 8 boys teams turn to play Shipton and they also came away with a win!



Our Year 7 and 8 girls team took part in a Football tournament at Oakley School on Wednesday 12th March and finished 2nd overall.



Congratulations to our Year 9 boys team who beat Aylesford 1-0 in a cup match on Friday 12th March.



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](mailto:khsattendance@stowevalley.com) 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 19th August 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken from September 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