

Headteacher's message

As we come to the end of the longest half term of the year we can celebrate lots of positive achievements. Our House competitions have proven hugely popular; last week I was in awe at the 'spookiness' of the cakes in the Halloween cup cake challenge! Thank you for supporting your children with their efforts on this; they were incredible. Our House challenges are designed to enable students to explore talents in a variety of ways and they're encouraged to enter as many as they can over the year. They all help add points to winning the House Cup each year.

Whilst we always say that participation is more important than winning, it's fantastic to hear news of our sporting successes; well done to our rugby, football and netball teams in all years who are doing incredibly well in fixtures this season.

Our teachers are currently supporting students in preparation for their mock examinations after the half term. We have been promoting the importance of these and encouraging resilience, determination and ambition across our Year 11 and 13 students. Mock examinations enable us to understand what needs addressing in the curriculum and can motivate students to understand how to improve exam technique. Thanks to parents again for supporting with organisation and revision. Please do check the website for further guidance and support materials.

I wish our staff and students a safe and restful half term.

Ms Bridge



DofE News

This term has seen a fantastic start to the new DofE intake. We have our largest numbers ever enrolled at Bronze (57) and Silver (25). This term is generally quieter on the expeditions front and is more about getting the activities set for each of the sections.

Bronze

The Bronze group is 57 students and they kick off with a training day in school on Sunday 2nd November from 9.30 to 3.30. So for now they should be uploading their activities to eDofE accounts.

Silver

The Silver group recently undertook a practice expedition on Exmoor. The 24 year 10 students were treated to some amazing views, different types of terrain and some fantastic weather. All completed the expedition in great spirits and enjoyed fish and chips by the sea.



Gold

The Gold group also kick off with a training day on 2nd November 9.30 to 3.30. We have a group of 8 year 12's who are taking on the challenge of DofE this year.

Year 11 Geography trips to Worcester

Year 11 students recently went on their human geography fieldtrip to Worcester city centre where they studied qualitative data and flows. They had to carry out traffic flow counts, walkability surveys, mood mapping, questionnaires and interpret street art. The students were fantastic.



KMAT Great Debate Competition Final

On Wednesday 8th October our debate team took part in the KMAT Great Debate Competition Final. The final was different from the qualifying round in that there were lights, music and grand entrances. The judges were professionals from a range of different backgrounds. We were delighted to see our students continued to perform confidently on the stage, well supported by the able assistants. There were ten different stimulus debates in the final for students to research and consider. They needed to be able to put forward points on both sides as their line of argument was revealed in the last moments!

The competition was a wonderful opportunity for our students to research, to debate and to encounter a range of different people and viewpoints. Although we didn't win the trophy, we became smarter by being part of this programme.

The team of students are a credit to the school and we are immensely proud of them. It was wonderful to see their oracy skills in action and to see them working together as a team across year groups.



No more than 3 missed school days across the academic year.



Don't forget

Odd Socks Day

We are inviting students and staff to wear Odd Socks on Monday 10th November in support of Antibullying week. A voluntary donation of £1 can be made via ParentPay.

Notices

Communication with staff: here at Kineton High School we welcome contact from parents/carers and believe positive relationships between school, home and pupils actively support learning, attendance, and achievement. Most queries can be directed to your child's form tutor, or their individual subject teacher. Staff endeavour to ensure contact is polite and professional and we respectfully ask our parents/carers to communicate in a similar manner.

Please can you email in the first instance and staff will do their best to respond within 48 hours (please note this may be longer depending on the nature of the query, staff availability and during school holidays). For anything urgent, please call the school on 01926 640465.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

***NEW* Family Support Worker Clinic:** book an appointment with our school Family Support Worker, Miss Stowe, for advice and guidance on a range of topics including student attendance barriers; free school meals eligibility; foodbank vouchers; financial support; housing advice and referrals to local support agencies. Available every Thursday between 9-00-11.00am. Book here (from 6th November): <https://kinetonhighschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Autumn Term Calendar

- **Monday 27th to Friday 31st October - Half term**
- **Tuesday 4th November - Sixth Form Open Evening 5-7pm**
- **Tuesday 4th to Friday 14th November - Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams**
- **Thursday 13th November - Year 7 Disco 7-8.30pm**
- **Thursday 20th November - Year 9 Parents Evening 4-7pm**
- **Thursday 20th November - Year 8 reports issued**
- **Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th November - A level Geography trip**
- **Thursday 27th November - Year 10 reports issued**
- **Thursday 27th November - Sixth Form Winter Ball**
- **Friday 28th November - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th December - Year 11 MFL Mock Exams**
- **Thursday 4th December - Year 7 reports issued**
- **Thursday 11th December - Year 11 reports issued**
- **Thursday 11th December - Christmas Fair 4-6.30pm**
- **Monday 15th to Friday 19th December - Charity Week**
- **Thursday 18th December - Year 13 reports issued**
- **Friday 19th December - last day of term**
- **Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January - Christmas break**
- **Monday 5th January - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Tuesday 6th January - start of the Spring term for all students**



Poppies

We are supporting the Royal British Legion 2025 Poppy Appeal to help raise vital funds for the tireless work they do to support the Armed Forces community.

Students, staff and visitors will be able to purchase poppies and other items from Student Services and Reception (cash only please).



**CONTACT
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Sports News

Cross Country



Congratulations to 10 students who took part in the South Warwickshire Cross Country Trials in September, with many of them qualifying for the next round.

Rugby



We are extremely proud of our Year 8 boys Rugby team who played in a Tournament at Alcester Grammar School and won all 6 games, only conceding 1 try!

Netball



Well done to our Year 11 Netballers who played their last ever tournament in September, ending with a win.



Year 10 played in a friendly tournament at the end of September and played well in all 4 of their matches.



Year 9 also played in a friendly tournament, winning 3 out of their 5 matches.

Sports News

Football



Well done to our Year 7 boys team who played their first league match in October.



Huge congratulations to our Year 8 team who won their cup match in September.



Well done to our Year 9 Footballers who have won both their matches in September; 6-0 and 5-0!



Our Year 10 Footballers also won their matches played in September and October; 4-1 and 3-1!





Leave of Absence

During Term Time 2025-26



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 MyCAS 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](https://www.kinetonhighschool.org.uk/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 2025-26



The Supreme Court clarified has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 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