

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been an amazing half term! Six weeks feels a short one but our school calendar makes it no less intense. I have felt incredibly proud of all the activities our students and staff have been up to thus far this term, culminating in our Careers Fair this week. This event has continued to grow thanks to our dedicated Careers Education team (Mrs Stock, Ms Bonser and Mr Perkins); we had over 40 employers, colleges, universities and local businesses represented. It's become such a valued date in our school calendar and feedback from our guests suggested that KHS students were highly engaged, polite and respectful... nothing less than we expect!

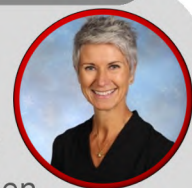
Change and transition is a theme of the term as our Year 11 students undergo interviews for Sixth Form. Our Year 13 are increasingly involved in planning for their next stage, whether employment, apprenticeships, a gap year or University. We were delighted at the news that Yousif A-W has received an offer from Oxford University to study Engineering. Well done Yousif; very well deserved! Offers for places in Year 7 are released at the beginning of March and the important transition to secondary school begins for those in Year 6.

I must congratulate our current Year 7 cohort on their positive conduct in school. They are such a pleasure to chat with in social time and I'm always impressed when I drop into lessons at their focus and attitude to learning. This is illustrated in strong attendance and in their House points total which is a staggering 35,571 compared to only 783 negative points.

We are all about ready for a short break. I wish all those on overseas trips a wonderful experience; we'll look forward to hearing about adventures in Italy, Skiing in Spain and New York City after the half term.

To everyone else, have a safe and restful break. We return on Monday 23rd February (week 2).

Ms Bridge



Year 9 Fits a Knockout

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 Girls Team who took part in the Fits a Knockout competition last week at the Combat Sports Centre in Solihull and came second overall!



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



Don't forget

Only 41 school days until GCSE and A Level exams start - make them count!

Notices

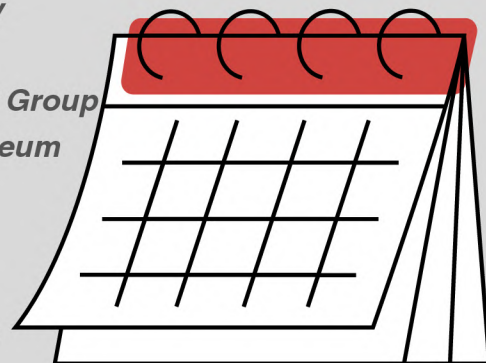
Uniform reminder: please ensure students are wearing the full, correct uniform when they return to school after half-term:

- Black blazer with KHS school logo
- School tie with house stripe
- Plain white shirt
- Plain black tailored trousers (*no flares or leggings*)
- Plain black pleated skirt
- Plain black or white socks, or plain black tights
- Plain black school shoes (*no trainers*)
- Plain black V-neck sweater (*no hoodies*)
- Jewellery - 1 set of plain studs or for religious reasons (*no hooped earrings*)
- No extreme and or exhibitionist hairstyles or colours



Spring Term Calendar

- **Thursday 12th to Tuesday 17th February - New York trip**
- **Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st February - Ski trip**
- **Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - Half term**
- **Friday 20th to Monday 23rd February - Italy trip**
- **Tuesday 24th February - Year 10 Silver DofE Training day**
- **Tuesday 24th February to Tuesday 10th March - Year 11 and 13 Mock exams**
- **Wednesday 25th February - Year 12 Art trip to Compton Verney**
- **Thursday 26th February - Year 7 reports issued**
- **Thursday 26th February - Parent/Carer Neurodiversity Support Group**
- **Friday 27th February - Year 12 History trip to Imperial War Museum**
- **Thursday 5th March - Year 12 Parents evening 4.00-7.00pm**
- **Tuesday 10th March - Sixth Form trip to Coventry Cathedral**
- **Wednesday 11th March - Flexible Learning day**
- **Wednesday 11th March - A level Success Evening 5.30-6.30pm**
- **Thursday 12th March - Author Stephen Kelman visit**
- **Friday 13th March - Year 11 Art trip to Compton Verney**
- **Wednesday 18th March - Year 9 Geography trip to Cadbury World**
- **Thursday 19th March - Year 12 UCAS trip to Worcester University**
- **Wednesday 25th March - Year 13 trip to Science Museum**
- **Thursday 26th March - Year 11 and Year 13 reports issued**
- **Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April - Easter break**
- **Monday 13th April - start of Summer term for all students**



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Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair took place on Tuesday 10th February. We welcomed around 40 exhibitors from a range of employers, apprenticeship providers, further and higher education establishments. Moreton Morrell College even brought a tractor on site which students enjoyed seeing close up. Exhibitors were very impressed with students' behaviour and engagement with their stalls and there was a great buzz throughout.

*Mrs Stock,
Careers Coordinator*



Year 12 Gold DofE trip to Derbyshire

At the end of January the Year 12 Gold DofE students went to the Dark Peak area of Derbyshire for a training weekend. Leaving school early on the Friday morning, they started the walk from Ladybower reservoir. This was an accompanied training walk where the focus was on using compasses and navigating in open access areas. The weather proved challenging, the visibility was very limited making spotting landmarks very difficult but really making their compass skills invaluable. They coped with snow on the ground, cold, wet, windy and slippery conditions underfoot. After this we went to Pindale Outdoor centre which was our base for the weekend.

Saturday included route planning for their qualifying expedition in July, they used information they had taken from the day before. For example how big a hill are they comfortable climbing. Then the next navigation session took place, this included some night navigation skills just to make sure they are prepared for all conditions.

Sunday saw them put it all in to practice and navigate themselves from Pindale to Hayfield. This is where the mass trespass took place.

What was the Kinder Mass Trespas?

On 24th April, 1932, hundreds of men and women defied the law to walk over hills and moorland to the plateau of Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, in what would become the Peak District National Park.

Again the weather closed in meaning visibility was limited but they all successful completed the walk and arrived at Hayfield in good time for the trip back.

Their practice expedition takes place during the Easter holidays in the Black mountains where we hope for better weather.

Mrs Briggs, DofE Manager



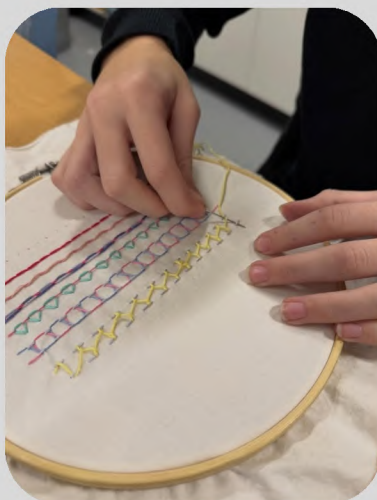
Year 7 Art

Year 7 Art students have created some fantastic observational drawings of birds this half term!



Year 9 Textiles

Textiles students in Year 9 have been learning modern folk embroidery stitches this half term.



Year 12 Geography trip to Birmingham

On Wednesday 4th February Year 12 Geography students went to Birmingham city centre as part of their current topic looking at regeneration. They visited multiple sites that have been or are in the process of being regenerated. The pupils carried out multiple fieldwork techniques in order to try and evaluate whether they feel regeneration in Birmingham is successful. The group were great and a pleasure to take.

Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography



Sports News

Athletics



Well done to our Year 7 and 8 girls teams who took part in the South Warwickshire indoor Athletics competition in January. Year 8 came 1st and go on to the finals. Year 7 came 5th.

Basketball



Our Year 8 basketball team played in a friendly tournament on 28th January, winning 2 out of their 3 games.

Football



In January, our Year 9 boys team played in a tournament and came 2nd overall, winning 4 out of 5 games.



Year 9 played again in February against Aylesford and won, scoring an impressive 8 goals!



Congratulations to our Year 10 boys team who won their first league match against Southam 4-0!



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