

## Stowe Valley Trust Art Exhibition 25th and 26th April

**Come and see some brilliant art and photography!**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great excitement that we share the dates of our Trust's first Art Exhibition which will be held at the Compton Verney Art Gallery. We are delighted to be able to celebrate the creative talent of our student community at such a prestigious venue. All schools in our Trust will be submitting work and many of the Postcards from our recent competition will also be on display. Families and Stowe Valley Staff can benefit from a 50% reduction using the code below. There are lots of things to do and see in the buildings and it's set in spectacular grounds.

SVTMAT50% - valid for 50% off up to 2 adult full price day tickets on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April. This code can be used when booking admission for that weekend online, over the phone (01926 645500) or at the Welcome Centre on the day.

*Entry to Compton Verney for those receiving universal or pension credit costs £2, under 19s go free and entry for 19-25 year olds costs £10.*

More details about Compton Verney can be found on the website:

[comptonverney.org.uk](http://comptonverney.org.uk)

Our artwork will be displayed in the Adam Hall.

We would love to have as many people as possible come along to support and share the exhibition. It's not everyday that children's artwork is displayed alongside nationally and internationally renowned artists in fabulous surroundings!



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



Don't forget

**Our popular PTSA Family Quiz night is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April! £20 a table, book on ParentPay.**



## Message from Ms Bridge

Dear Parents and Carers,



It is with huge pride that we are celebrating the achievements of our pupils in many ways at the end of this very condensed term. Kineton pupils have demonstrated ambition and determination in abundance!

Mrs McGrattan and Mrs Adams took a team of students to a 'Mock Trials' competition at Coventry Magistrates Court last weekend and not only did our team win the overall competition but Harry W in Year 8 won the award for best legal advisor.

In football news: Year 10 Boys have reached the final of the county cup and will play Stratford at Central Ajax's ground in Warwick on April 15th. We'd love to see lots of support for them on the evening. Our Year 9 Boys team are looking very likely winners of the league this year- very well done to both year groups for their dedication.

It's the girls in Year 8 that have done brilliantly in the Indoor Athletics competition this week. Competing against schools from across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, the team came third overall which is fantastic.

Excellence in extracurricular activities has also come from our Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Further details are in the newsletter.

Our Charity work has been formally recognised yet again by Katherine House Hospice. In an awards evening this month, Ms Purnell and Team Kineton received the Community Award Prize. This was a true team effort and the money raised for the charity (nearly £4k) would not be anywhere near this without the efforts of staff, students and our very generous parents! Well done to everyone for this recognition.

In other news, the Year 11 and 13 are well underway with revision activities for the start of their exam journeys. The signs are very positive from the latest mock results. Year 11s have had a nudge from Mr Larner and their tutors this week in an effort to boost numbers on revision sessions; they can really make a difference! Rewards are available through a session attendance scheme so please do encourage your children to go along and to make full use of all the information on the website to gain those additional marks in exams.

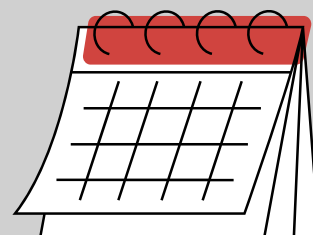
Our recent uniform drive has made an incredible difference, (thank you) and this was noted by the CEO, Mr Samra this week whilst on a visit. We will continue to be relentless in our expectations of uniform. Studies show that wearing uniform with pride can help reduce visible inequality and some forms of bullying. It is also a strong determiner of a positive ethos.

Finally, a date for your calendars: Our inaugural Stowe Valley Art Exhibition will be held at Compton Verney on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please do come along and see an incredible array of Art and Photography work.

I wish all our students, parents, carers and staff a very restful and enjoyable Easter break. We'll see our students back to school on April 13th.

*Ms Bridge*

- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Easter break**
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - start of Summer term for all students (week 1)**
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Year 7 Bourton-on-the-Water trips**
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Year 10 Football Cup Final**
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Year 12 reports issued**
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April - PTSA Family Quiz night from 6.45pm**
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Year 5/6 SEND Parents Evening**
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Year 11 MFL Oral Exams**
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Year 7 Parents Evening 4-7pm**
- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank holiday (school closed)**
- **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June - A Level and GCSE Exams**
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Year 12 trip to Oxford University**
- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Year 10 Parents Evening 4-7pm**
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Year 13 Leavers Day**
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May - Year 9 Bronze DofE Practice Expedition**
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 11 Leavers Day**
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - Half term**
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June - Year 9 reports issued, Year 10 Virtual Achievement Presentation 6pm**
- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June - Year 8 reports issued**
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Year 9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition**
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Exams**
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Pride Picnic**
- **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June - Year 7 reports issued, Year 11 Prom**
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition**
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Year 10 Geography trip to the Wyre Forest**
- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Awards Evening**
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Year 11 Induction Day**
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Year 12 Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition**
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Year 10 Food trip to Birmingham**
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Years 7 to 9 Enrichment Week, Year 10 and 12 Work Experience**
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Year 6 Induction Day, Year 6 Parents Evening**
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July - Years 7 to 10 Sports Day**
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July - Year 10 and 12 reports issued**
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July - End of term school closes at 1.10pm**
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Teacher training days (school closed to students)**
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - start of Autumn term for all students**



## Young Citizen's Mock Trial Competition

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March a group of 15 students from Key Stage 3 competed in the Young Citizen's Mock Trial competition at Coventry Magistrates' Court.

The crime that had allegedly taken place was the theft of a U-phone, snatched by a person riding a lemon bike late on a Friday evening after dark.

The students each had a role to play in the trial. There was the victim, the defendant, witnesses, lawyers, a legal advisor, magistrates and an usher.

The group was divided into prosecution and defence teams. Our defence team competed first against the prosecution team from Henley in Arden School. After a short break, our prosecution team faced Stoke Park School.

Both trials lasted over an hour, were judged by magistrates and led by a magistrate. Both returned a non-guilty verdict.

The team eagerly awaited the results. We are delighted to announce that Harry W won an award for best legal advisor, and the team were awarded the trophy as the winning school for the most amount of points accumulated. They received medals and certificates from the High Sheriff of Warwickshire. Looking at the results sheet, it really was a super team effort by Kineton with every student giving a solid performance.

Well done team Kineton. You made us very proud!

*Mrs Adams and Mrs McGrattan*



## Year 8 Girls Athletics County Finals

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March our Year 8 Girls Indoor Athletics team travelled to North Solihull Sports Centre to take part in the County Indoor Athletics tournament to represent South Warwickshire. The girls competed incredibly well on both the track and the field events competing against the top athletes from all the winning schools in the other 8 regions, including Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire. The girls came away with an outstanding result finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. A fantastic achievement and a huge well down to all the students involved.

*Ms Bonsen, Teacher of PE & Personal Development Lead*



## Year 9 and 10 Loudmouth Sessions

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March all students in Year 9 and Year 10 had an assembly style theatre session delivered by the external company Loudmouth. This performance was called 'Working for Marcus' and looked at the stories of two young people involved in Grooming, Child Criminal Exploitation and Knife Crime. Students engagement was fantastic throughout both performances and the feedback we have received on the student evaluation forms has shown that our students learnt a lot from these sessions.

*Ms Bonsen, Personal Development Lead*



## KS3 Folk Art ILTs

We have been blown away by the amazing Folk Art inspired ILTs that have been created this half term!



## Year 9 trip to Cadbury World

On 18th March we took 140 year 9 pupils to Cadbury World to look at how multinational companies operate, globalisation and Fairtrade. We had a talk from Cadbury World and a self guided tour. We also got to sample some chocolate treats. The pupils were brilliantly behaved, a real credit to the school. Thank you to the staff who supported the trip.

*Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography*



## Student Presidents

We are delighted to announce our new Student Presidents for 2026-27 have been selected this week. Huge congratulations go to:

**Presidents** - Sam H-W and Sammy B

**Vice Presidents** - Hallie E-L and Bethany F



## Year 12 visit

### Worcester University

Students in Year 12 enjoyed a Careers trip to Worcester University on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March where they had the opportunity to explore what employers and universities have to offer Post-18.



## Flexible Learning Day

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March Sixth Form students took part in a variety of off-timetable sessions and learning opportunities for personal development. Year 12 had a Careers day which included a presentation from Worcester University; learning about researching Apprenticeships, Gap Year options and work; a World of Work Decisions Game by EKFB and a presentation from Oxford Brookes University. Year 13 looked at preparing for life after A levels. This involved CPR and First Aid training; managing mental health; keeping safe if moving away from home and a finance session from the University of Warwick.



## Charity Week

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our incredible Sixth Form and school community raised an impressive **£4370.28** from Charity Week, which took place just before Christmas. The amount was shared equally between the following charities.



**JESSICA'S  
PROMISE**



*"Thank you so much for your wonderful message and for choosing our charity to benefit from the fundraising efforts of your 6th formers. We are truly grateful for your generosity and delighted to hear about the fantastic fundraising undertaken at Kineton High School. Your donation will make a significant difference to our work."*

*"A big thank you to all your wonderful sixth formers. We appreciate any donation received as this will help us to support people living with or caring for individuals with cerebral palsy in Coventry & Warwickshire."*

## Year 7 Geography ILTs

This term, Year 7 Geography students had to create a global city in a box for their ILT. Their work was extremely well designed and researched showing good understanding of their chosen city. Well done year 7!

*Mrs Lovell, Head of Geography*



## DofE News

As Spring arrives the Duke of Edinburgh starts to ramp up. This term we have had a Gold training weekend in the Peak district, a Silver training walk over Breedon Hill, Worcestershire and the Bronze training walk in the local area.

The Bronze training walk saw 54 year 9 students learn about map reading, how to use a compass and how to work together. Split in to 4 training groups, each left school with a trainer supplied by our AAP and a school member of staff. They spent the day learning how to read a map and navigate from one point to another, looking for landmarks that would help them identify where they were. One group had the added bonus of meeting a friendly farmer who let them cuddle some new born lambs. The weather was good for a change and surprisingly the mud was less deep than expected. All groups did well and there didn't appear to be too many sore feet which is a positive.

All groups now should be planning the qualifying routes. After school sessions are on for Bronze and Silver so please make sure you get these routes completed.

Over the Easter holidays the Gold group head to the Black Mountains for their practice expedition and very soon after the return to school the Bronze group will have their practice expedition.

*Mrs Briggs, DofE Award Manager*



## Sports News

### Football



Congratulations to our Year 7 Boys team who played against Trinity on 26<sup>th</sup> February and won 3-0!

### Trampolining



Our Year 7 Trampolining students took part in their first competition on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Aylesford School. Well done to Tabby who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Lillian who came 3rd.

### Netball



Our Year 7 Netball team also took part in their first South Warwickshire tournament on 11<sup>th</sup> March and played really well.



Congratulations to our Year 8 team who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the South Warwickshire tournament at Stratford School on 5<sup>th</sup> March.



# 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.khsattendance@stowevalley.com) and email it to [khsattendance@stowevalley.com](mailto: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**