

Message from Ms Bridge

Dear Parents and Carers,



As the academic year comes to a close, we are all feeling a little jaded but nonetheless extremely upbeat after one of the best [Enrichment Weeks](#) I can remember. It's the week in our year which is dedicated to opportunities that enrich classroom learning by bringing it to life through a range of memorable experiences in school and through trips. Our aim is to provide the chance for every student to attend a trip out of school. The range of options was significant this year from residential to The Isle of Wight, Normandy, Cornwall (2 trips) to a plethora of day experiences locally and further afield for example, The Space Centre and London.

Throughout the week, Year 10 and 12 students were on Work Experience. It filled me with such pride at the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our employers; visitors to school; and comments from the general public about the politeness and conduct of our students. So many comments about how they'd love to work with Kineton again. Also wonderful that some of our students secured job offers as a result of their work experience!

Thank you to parents and carers that took up the opportunity to give feedback via our Parent/ Carer Survey in June. The headlines can be seen below. We were reassured that the areas identified as strengths and those we need to work on came as no surprise. Feedback has been so important in helping us draft our priorities for next year; I'm pleased we are along the same lines as many of you!

Headlines:

Greatest strengths	Main areas for improvement
• Safe environment • Caring staff • Sixth Form provision • Extra-curricular opportunities • Pastoral support	• Low level disruptive behaviour • Curriculum communication • SEND experience for a small number of pupils with SEND

Overall parent confidence in Kineton High School can be viewed as strong with 86% willing to recommend the school and strong approval of safety, pupil happiness, wider opportunities and staff commitment.

I fully appreciate we have work to do as our aim is for 100% recommendations.

I'm delighted to share that 100% of Staff respondents say that they feel proud to work at Kineton! Many of them cite your children as the reason for this

Finally, I thank all our staff for their relentless determination and passion for ensuring life at Kineton is the best it can be for all our students. Thank you to all our parents and carers for continuing to work alongside us and support our mission for children to 'achieve personal best'.

Have a safe, enjoyable and restful summer break. I'll look forward to seeing all our students on Thursday September 3rd but not before a bit of a rest!

Ms Bridge

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Thank you to all our Parents, Carers and Staff for supporting Kineton Students throughout 2025-26. A year which has seen much change on the school site. Work is finally coming to an end as the landscaping and parking area at the front of school is completed as we break up. It's looking fantastic and I'm sure it will fill our students with pride when come back to school in September.

I'd like to reach out to our parent/carers community as opportunities to join the local governing board will arise in the Autumn term. We'd love to hear from interested people who can give up time to work closely with the Headteacher and senior team in further improving the school. If you'd like to discuss being a governor, please contact jennie.lawrance@stowevalley.com

Have a peaceful Summer break.

Bannaby Briggs



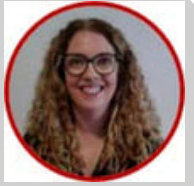
AUTUMN TERM CALENDAR



- **Tuesday 1st to Wednesday 2nd September - Teacher training days (school closed to students)**
- **Thursday 3rd September - start of Autumn term for all students**
- **Wednesday 9th September - Year 11 & 13 Drama trip**
- **Tuesday 15th September - school photographs for Year 7, 9, 11 and 12**
- **Thursday 24th September - Year 6 Open Evening 4.30-7.30pm (school closes at 1.10pm)**
- **Thursday 1st to Friday 2nd October - Year 10 & 11 MFL trip**
- **Monday 12th to Wednesday 14th October - Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip**
- **Thursday 15th October - Year 11 reports issued**
- **Monday 19th October - Year 11 Achievement Evening (in person), Year 7 Meet the Tutors (virtual)**
- **Thursday 22nd October - Year 13 reports issued, Year 8 Disco**
- **Friday 23rd October - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half term**
- **Tuesday 3rd to Friday 13th November - Year 11 & 13 mock exams**
- **Thursday 5th November - Year 12 Parents Evening 4-7pm**
- **Tuesday 10th November - Sixth Form Open evening 5-7pm**
- **Thursday 12th November - A level Media trip, Year 9 reports issued**
- **Thursday 19th November - Year 8 reports issued, Year 7 Disco**
- **Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th November - A level Geography trip**
- **Thursday 26th November - Year 10 reports issued, Sixth Form Winter Ball**
- **Friday 27th November - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December - Year 11 MFL mock exams**
- **Thursday 3rd December - Year 7 reports issued, Year 10 Parents Evening 4-7pm**
- **Wednesday 9th December - Christmas Fair 4-5.30pm**
- **Thursday 10th December - Y11 reports issued**
- **Monday 14th to Friday 18th December - Charity Week**
- **Wednesday 16th December - Charity Show evening performance 6-7pm**
- **Thursday 17th December - Y13 reports issued**
- **Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January - Christmas and New Year break**
- **Monday 4th January - Teacher training day (school closed to students)**
- **Tuesday 5th January - start of term for all pupils**

MESSAGE FROM MRS THOMPSON

Year 7



What a first year we have had! I have been so impressed with how well all of the students have settled into life at Kineton High. They have embraced so many new challenges. It has been particularly lovely to see them developing in confidence and fully participating in school life.

Some particular highlights for me have been watching so many year 7s taking part in the school production of 'Oliver!', the fantastic craft - and sales skills - on show at the Christmas Craft Fair, the impressive dance moves at the school disco, and the amazing stories I have heard from all the things students got up to during enrichment week - it sounds like they had a wonderful time!

You may have heard that I will be stepping away from the Head of Year role to focus on my other role in school, and Mrs Turner will be taking the reins from me (I will still be looking after Year 7 on Mondays as this is Mrs Turner's day off, so I will still be very much involved). It has been a privilege getting to know all the students this year and watching them develop and grow in confidence. I wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Look out for year 8 information on the website from September on the Year 8 2026-27 page.

MESSAGE FROM MR FORD

Year 10



As we reach the end of Year 10, I would like to congratulate our students on an excellent year and, in particular, the maturity they demonstrated during their recent work experience placements. Employers consistently praised their punctuality, professionalism, initiative and positive attitudes. Students were outstanding ambassadors for both themselves and our school community.

As we look ahead to Year 11, we are encouraging students to make the most of the summer break by focusing on three key areas: rest, safety and learning.

Firstly, students have earned the opportunity to rest and recharge. Time with family, friends and hobbies is vital for wellbeing, helping them return in September refreshed and ready for the challenges of their GCSE year.

Secondly, we ask families to reinforce the importance of staying safe, particularly around open water. Rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other unfamiliar swimming locations can present significant dangers, even on warm days. We encourage all students to make sensible choices and look after one another throughout the holiday.

Finally, while rest is important, a small amount of regular learning over the summer can make a significant difference. Completing sections of the summer revision booklet and maintaining short, manageable study sessions will help students retain knowledge and begin Year 11 with confidence.

We wish all our Year 10 students and their families a safe, restful and rewarding summer. We look forward to welcoming them back in September, ready for a successful Year 11.

Look out for year 11 information on the website from September on the Year 11 2026-27 page.

DOFE NEWS

Gold

At the beginning of July the Year 12's headed off to the Lake District to complete their qualifying expedition. They start off in Seathwaite in the Southwest of the area. The expedition takes them 4 days in total covering about 19km each day carrying all of their kit to be self sufficient for that time. With recent weather I was hoping for a dry expedition but the weather was no that kind. Wednesday night before they even started we had torrential rain and high winds so wet tents before they even started.

The weather on day 1 was changeable still very windy but the sun came out later and they had a nice walk over to Coniston, there was significant evidence that the training had paid off and navigation was going well. Day 2 saw them head north, past Tarn Hows and up to Loughrigg Tarn, unfortunately the rain had now started and was very much set in for the next 2 days with only brief dry spells. Day 3 was the worst weather with heavy rain, high winds and low cloud for most of the day. The students pushed on and even though they didn't have the happiest faces when we saw them they all got to camp in good time. The last day saw an improvement in the weather and both groups had lovely walks round Ullswater to finish in Pooley Bridge. All 8 students have successfully completed the expedition section, Well done to you all. It is now important to complete the other sections, including the Residential and get assessor reports submitted.

www.dofe.org/assessor for the reports. www.dofe.org/opportunityfinder if you are looking for ideas for residentials.



Silver

Unfortunately we pulled the Silver Qualifying at the last minute due to the red heatwave warning. I felt by the time we had put in sufficient changes to deal with the heat and keep our students safe it was no longer going to be a Silver level expedition. This will be rearranged as soon as possible and I am looking for a new date. I really hope to get this booked in for September or October.

Please aim to complete all the other sections and get assessor reports submitted so that as soon as the expedition is completed you will have completed the level.

DOFE NEWS

Bronze

The year 9 groups all completed the qualifying expedition in the Cotswolds at the beginning of June. There was great navigation this time showing the practice had paid off. There had been some group changes but all seemed to get along well.

Again, some great food on display we had steak being cooked, smash burgers which appeared to have all the trimmings and looked delicious.

The Sunday seemed to be a very early start as some students decided 4.30am was a great time to start playing football, I was less impressed. At least it meant they were up and raring to go by 8am. Day 2 was nice and sunny and all groups worked hard and made rapid progress towards the finish points. All were successful and now it is a case of getting all those sections signed off so that come September we are raring to go on silver.

I have the expedition assessor reports and I will upload them to eDofe accounts very shortly.



Moving forwards

I was hoping to get the information for Year 9 moving to Silver before the End of Summer term, this may not be possible for a couple of reasons but I am still trying, If it doesn't come out before the end of the summer term I will get it sent out at the beginning of September.

Year 8, I will get the information evening regarding enrolling for Bronze booked in for September and details will be sent at the start of year 9.

A plea

Please keep trying to get sections signed off so that you can complete whichever level you have signed up for.

A reminder to all enrolled, keep uploading your evidence, when you have completed a section ask your assessor to upload an assessor report via www.edofe.org/assessor Even if your expeditions were a few years ago you can still get the sections signed off, it is not too late to complete.

Mrs Briggs, DofE Manager



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

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