

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 1 - I S S U E 1

inside



KATHERINE WARRINGTON SCHOOL



READY • RESPECTFUL • RESPONSIBLE

Top posts from throughout the year



1

1. The finished product of the Lockdown Rainbow:

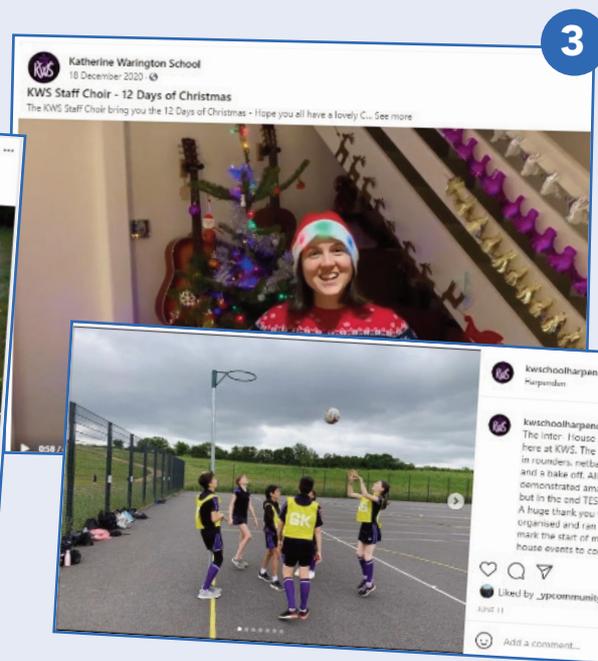
(February) The staff and students that were still in school during lockdown worked together over a week to produce this amazing rainbow made of stones that have now been placed on the hill outside the front of the school.



2

2. Welcoming the KWS sheep:

(May) The post showing off the school's pet sheep that are now living on our top field went through the roof and reached over 2400 people on social media and gained over 780 engagements.



3

3. Twelve Days of Christmas KWS staff choir:

(December) Our staff took to the remote stage to wish our students a Merry Christmas in December and performed a festive 12 Days of Christmas that was then cleverly edited together.



4

4. Inter-house events day:

(June) The first inter-house events day was held at KWS where the students competed against each other in a mixture of sporting and non-sporting activities. The day was won overall by Keller.



KWS Q&A week for new students instead of open day.

Due to COVID, interviews were carried out by members of staff. These videos were then placed on Facebook and Instagram stories throughout the week. Updates and reminders were posted on social media; this was a successful campaign that gained a lot of attention from future parents.



Most liked photo



Freya F. for Wellbeing Week.

The students participated in a well-being week at school to help them cope with the stresses of lockdown. During this week the students participated in wellbeing activities during their lessons and then were challenged in the afternoon to complete some activities to earn house points to help improve their wellbeing. This oil pastel piece by Freya Fox is the result of her screen free project in History.



COVID Testing

During lockdown, our staff transformed our food tech room and set up the school's COVID testing room in a matter of days. Thanks to our staff and volunteers, we were able to carry out successful COVID tests on all students and staff upon the return of the school community.

Our COVID testing is all set up and ready to go as we welcome our students back today. A big thank you to all the members of our COVID testing team giving up their time to help!

#MondayMotivation
#KWSchoolHarpenden
pic.twitter.com/AoIw4PQGAM



Inspired by Georgina Luck

Our students continued to be creative! Inspired by Georgina Luck, 48 students worked on a recipe piece. It looked amazing.



Welcome

It's a privilege to be allowed to establish a brand new school from scratch. My first and most fundamental aim is that all our students fulfil their potential so they can all realise their ambitions.

I also have a very strong commitment to the comprehensive education system and believe that talent is evenly distributed but opportunity is not. Therefore, I want to make sure that all our students taste and experience a vast array of extracurricular opportunities, gently nudging them to try things they may not have thought they would enjoy. This happens in our Period 7. Split between mind, body and soul options, we currently offer:

Drama Club	Netball Club
Art Club	Computing Club
Documentaries Club	Women's Rugby
CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)	Poi
Media Studies	Menace Sports
Drone Flying	Relaxing Crafts
Law	Animal Studies
Latin	Culture Club
Running Club	Eco Garden Club
Aerobics/Dance	Ukulele Club
Football Club	Cooking Skills Club

Foster opportunities, reward success and inspire learning sounds easy. To some extent it is - we've attracted a dedicated, expert staff who convey their enthusiasm for their subject in every lesson they deliver. That energy and commitment is contagious.

We know that when a student puts in the effort they get better at things, so we ask students to rate their effort in lessons and celebrate as increased effort leads to increased learning. We've developed our curriculum to ensure that we promote independence, curiosity and challenge.

I am often asked what it's like to lead a new school and in particular what is my leadership style. I expect people ask, hoping to get a great nugget of wisdom from me but I tend to disappoint as my philosophy is simple, not embedded in management speak or business babble. I employ exceptional people and give them the resources, space and support to be even more exceptional. This approach works when it is underpinned by an evidence based approach to teaching and learning. Teaching at KWS is built on a modern understanding of the way our brains and memories work, instruction is broken down and sequenced and home learning underpins the classroom experience. The way we do things and make decisions is based on a wealth of expert research and practice, hence our aim to provide an 'innovative approach'-Chromebooks, Period 7, Mandarin and Spanish, Knowledge Organisers, our Eco Garden, Radio Station and sheep! I can strive to find the right words but James Clear in 'Atomic Habits' captured the essence of our journey.

"Success is not a goal to reach or a finish line to cross. It is a system to improve, an endless process to refine... The secret to getting results that last is to never stop making improvements. It's remarkable what you can build if you just don't stop."

Our opening was delayed and then access to our facilities staggered across our first two years. At the point of moving into our newly built school, Covid was upon us, restricting year groups mixing, movement around the school and use of some specialist classrooms. The challenges have added to the journey resulting in the school you will see across the rest of this magazine - a warm, friendly place with a relentless drive to support all our students and staff to thrive and succeed. It's a kind, respectful, fun place to learn and work.

I trust you will enjoy reading more about us.



A new school needed for Harpenden

A shortage in school places was identified in Harpenden.

The Harpenden Secondary Schools Trust (HSST) was formed with the intention of setting up a fourth secondary school. The members are Roundwood Park School, Sir John Lawes School, St George's School, The University of Hertfordshire and Rothamsted Research.



School name announced

The school was named 'Katherine Warington School' after the scientist who lived in Harpenden for 90 Years and pioneered research at Harpenden's own Rothamsted Research on the impact of boron and boric acid on plant and bean fertility.

The name was chosen from an initial 700 suggestions from pupils at primary schools in and around Harpenden. The name 'Katherine Warington' was initially suggested by Elizabeth Gilardo, an 8-year-old pupil from St Dominic Catholic Primary School. Elizabeth said: "I wanted to suggest a name that had something to do with Harpenden and someone who had made an impact. I searched the internet and liked the name Katherine Warington. I felt it was different from lots of the other schools that are either named after men or trees. I also liked that she was a woman working in science all those years ago. I was surprised that Katherine had not been fully recognised for her achievements so her name becoming the school name would help that."

Site identified

After a thorough and exhaustive process a suitable site was identified.

Contractors appointed

Kier were appointed contractors for the development.



2014

2016

2017

May

Start life at KWS in sports block

Students and staff moved into the Phase 1 build which is now our sports hall. The building that we know today as our sports hall is a complete transformation of what the building once was. It looks brilliant!

The hall was divided into six classrooms topped with a dining hall at the far end with a storage cupboard being used as a fully functioning kitchen to feed 180 students plus staff.



Bushcraft

Our students went on a camping trip - Camp Wilderness. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions, they had to evacuate camp.



Life at KWS begins

In September 2019, we welcomed our first year of admissions into Year 7. Before our students arrived, our staff had been working hard through the summer at Roundwood Park school. At the start of September, our fantastic cohort arrived. They spent the first two and a half weeks of school at the University of Hertfordshire.

September

House system

Houses were chosen

Open day at Rothamsted Research

For our 2020 intake

Sports Hall handover

Remote school

December

2020

March

June

July

September



Covid/Lockdown 1

School handover

School tours
For new and current students and their families

Main building open

Students welcomed to main building



Winter showcase

KWS Our Journey

Tony Smith appointed

On the 26th of June 2017, Tony Smith was appointed the founding headteacher of the newly named Katherine Warrington School. Tony, who at the time was Deputy Head at Roundwood Park School in Harpenden, was selected from a national field of applicants. After a two-day interview process, he began his position in January 2018.



With the school opening in September 2019, Tony recruited, developed and inspired the new staff team to deliver a high-quality educational experience for all students.

Planning

Sept 2017
A full planning application was submitted to Herts council

Planning approved

Planning permission was granted



Judicial review

June

September

2018

March

August

First cohort

With the school building underway, it was time to find some students to fill it! After the first KWS open morning held at Rothamsted Research Park, admissions to KWS were opened. Students were able to make their first three admissions to existing secondary schools in Harpenden. Although KWS had not opened yet, students were still allowed to have a fourth option to select the school. In March 2019, the Year 6 students applying to the secondary school would have had their place confirmed as a member of the first cohort at KWS.

Archeological dig

2 bodies found

Open day

Hosted by Rothamsted Research

July

March

February

2019

Transition day

Taster morning

SLT

Senior Leadership Team appointed

Work begins

The construction work for Katherine Warrington School site was then confirmed to start the week commencing 7th January 2019. All building works for the school were contracted through Kier.



Lockdown 2

Remote school with live lessons

Back to school

Students return, PPE, covid testing and social distancing

October

2021

January

February

March

May

June

Visit by Lord Lieutenant and Bim Afolami MP

Rainbow built

Recognising the NHS heroes



Sheep

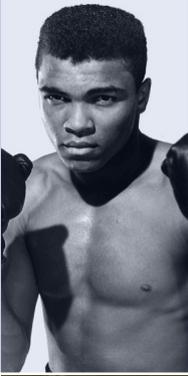
The sheep arrived



Founder's wall

Wall constructed





ALI (1942 - 2016)

Ryan M 8 Ali: *'We chose to name our house after Muhammad Ali because he was a very brave man who persevered and wasn't afraid to show his beliefs.'*

Muhammad Ali was one of the greatest boxers in history with an impressive 56-win record. He was also the first fighter to win the world heavyweight championship on three separate occasions. Not only was Ali a boxing champion, winning "Sportsman of the Century" in 1999, but also a champion of people speaking out against injustice and racial inequality. Ali was also known for his social message in refusing induction into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War; playing a large part in jumpstarting the 1960's Anti-war Movement. Although the majority of Americans still supported the war at this time, Ali invoked his rights to decline service as a conscientious objector. Despite paying a heavy price for his decision, including being banned from boxing for three and a half years, he stood by what he believed in.



ARMSTRONG (1930 - 2012)

Harry H 8 Armstrong: *'Neil Armstrong, as the first man on the moon, he demonstrated bravery in a totally unknown and new environment. He has many values and qualities that Armstrong house would also like to possess which is why we named our house after him.'*

Neil Armstrong was an American Astronaut, military pilot and educator. As a Purdue University graduate in aeronautical engineering, he became a naval aviator in the U.S Navy and even saw action in the Korean War. On the 20th July 1969, Armstrong made history as the first man to walk on the moon and was awarded the presidential medal of Freedom by President Richard Nixon. As an engineer and outstanding pilot Armstrong executed the extremely dangerous job of landing on the moon. Despite all of the bumps in the road he executed the landing professionally and to an extremely high standard. As the first man to walk on the moon, Armstrong propelled the possibility of space travel for mankind forward massively.



FRANKLIN (1942 - 2018)

Jacob Townley 8 Franklin: *'We chose Aretha Franklin because not only was she an amazing artist, she was someone who persevered to overcome adversities with hard work, good character and by doing everything to the best of their ability. Who better to represent our house, encourage us to persevere and be the best we can be.'*

Aretha Franklin is the most charted female artist in history. She was an American singer, songwriter, pianist and civil rights activist. With a plethora of hit songs such as 'Respect' and 'Freeway of Love', Franklin became known as the Queen of Soul as well as receiving numerous honours and awards throughout her career. Alongside her successful music career, Franklin became an integral part of the civil rights movement, using both her voice and her platform to advocate for racial equality. She has used the stage to stand up for challenged people, share her points of view as well as to encourage people to register to vote and stand up for decency.



KELLER (1880 - 1968)

Michael 5 8 Keller : *'We chose Helen Keller as our inspirational person because she pushed through hard times even when the odds were stacked against her, she showed resilience.'*

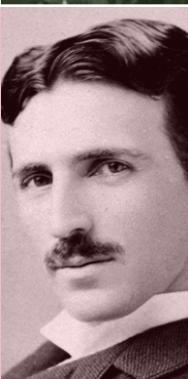
Hellen Keller was an American educator that overcame the adversity of being blind and deaf to become one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians, as well as co-founder of the ACLU. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Keller went on to become a world-famous speaker and author. She is remembered as an advocate for people with disabilities as well as tackling other social and political issues including women's suffrage, pacifism, birth control and socialism. Within her life, she travelled the world to show that blind and deaf people can read and write just like everyone else; they just learn a different way and so encourage improvements for job training, resources and better education.



NIGHTINGALE (1820 - 1910)

Freddie C 8 Nightingale: *'We chose Florence Nightingale because, like her, in our house, we believe in kindness and equality in how everybody is treated. We care for others and stay true to our value.'*

Florence Nightingale was a nurse and writer who came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses in the Crimean war. Florence and a team of nurses improved the unsanitary conditions at a British base hospital, greatly reducing the death count. From this, she laid the foundation for professional nursing and became an icon of Victorian culture as 'The Lady with the Lamp' because of making rounds of the wounded soldiers at night. Nightingale played a pivotal part in taking nursing from what was seen as a vocation to lower classes and turning it into a profession. She also revolutionised hospital conditions making them more organised and sanitary allowing patients worldwide to receive better care.



TESLA (1856 - 1943)

Jaydene G 8 Tesla: *'We chose Tesla as our house name because he played an important role in inventing electricity that we all use today, making him an inspiration to many.'*

Nikola Tesla was an inventor, engineer and futurist who is best known for his invention of alternating-current (AC) electricity and the discovery of the rotating magnetic field. Tesla patented the Tesla coil, which laid the foundation for wireless technologies and built a wireless-controlled boat, one of the first-ever exhibited. Tesla built the foundation of the power system that provides electricity to our homes and buildings even today. He also pioneered the field of radio communication and was granted more than 100 patents for his inventions.

What do you do in your role as head student?

We act as role models for KWS students, a voice for our peers and represent the school community. Each week we hold meetings to discuss various events happening in the school and speak during assemblies. As head students, we help to oversee and grow the house system at KWS. This includes responsibilities such as updating the house points on the house board and finding out the inside scoop from each house every week for the assembly. We understand that, as the school grows larger, our responsibility will expand.

Josh



How do you feel your role as head student is helping prepare you for your future?

This role has helped us to learn about the responsibilities and morals you need to better yourself for the future. The skills we learn and adopt as head students provide us with the fundamental tools to present ourselves well to future employers as well as leadership qualities we can value for the rest of our lives.

What benefits are there to having students play a leadership role within the school?

It is very important to have student leadership as it helps to inspire people and encourage a level of teamwork within the school. There is a massive advantage to being a voice for your peers as it can create better ideas for the school and improve staff-student relationships.

What is your favourite part about being a head student?

A favourite part about being a head student is communicating with our

peers to come up with exciting and great ideas to help the school community.

What are your aims as head student at KWS?

Our aim as head students is to ensure that every student in the school has a say on how to improve the school community and how we can make it a better environment to work in. We aim to uphold the three R's of Katherine Warington: Ready, Respectful, Responsible and embed it in our everyday lives.

Deystene



HEAD STUDENTS

What do you do in your role as deputy head student?

We act as role models for KWS students, a voice for our peers and represent the school community. As deputy head students, we support our head students in making changes within the school and contribute effectively to ensure we make the right decisions as a team. We take ideas from other students and put them forward to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Part of our role also includes planning for various events such as fundraising charity events. As deputy head students, we do our best to help improve the school and make it a fun and enjoyable place.

How do you feel your role as head student is helping prepare you for your future?

This role is equipping us with a range of leadership skills and ways to make important decisions. It has helped us to learn about the value of ideas and the importance of democracy. In addition, it has also taught us the valuable skills of prioritising and multi-tasking as we have had to juggle

school work, homework and extracurricular activities on top of our responsibilities within this role.

Ingrid (Deputy Head Girl): Having this role has helped me to cooperate effectively with the other head students and enabled me to value the importance of listening to other people's ideas.

What benefits are there to having students play a leadership role within the school?

We believe it is important to have student leadership within the school as it provides a greater chance of everyone's voice being heard. It also promotes ideas being created between students as well as encouraging student feedback on new events and changes within the school. This allows the school to become a more welcoming place for everyone.

What is your favourite part about being a deputy head student?

Harry (Deputy Head Boy): My favourite part about being deputy head student is that I can put forward the ideas of others and make a difference in the school.

Ingrid (Deputy Head Girl): My favourite part about being deputy head girl is that I get to make a difference at the school, make it a better place and ensure voices are heard from my peers.

What are your aims as deputy head student at KWS?

Our aim as deputy head students is to ensure all students' voices are heard and to make the school a better place for our current students and new joiners. We have felt a responsibility to represent the school well and demonstrate how good it can be. Our aim as deputy head students is to make a difference to the school and be a voice for the KWS students. We want to ensure that the school environment is the best place to learn, to thrive and make lifelong friends. As this is a new school, there is so much to look forward to! We feel incredibly lucky to be the first deputy head students at KWS.

Ingrid



HARRY

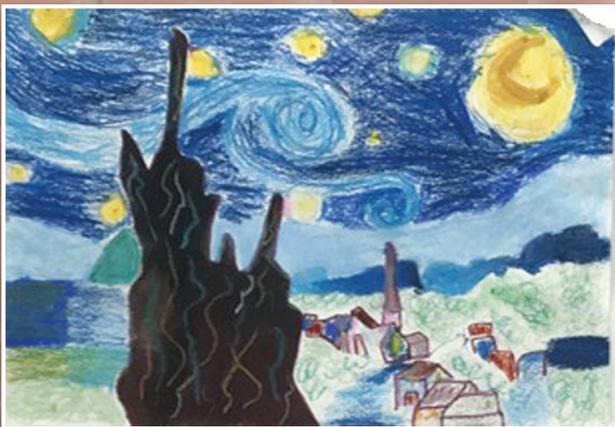


DEPUTY HEAD STUDENTS

KWS Wall of Fame



Isla W. Year 7



Isobel J. Year 7



Nawal S. Year 7



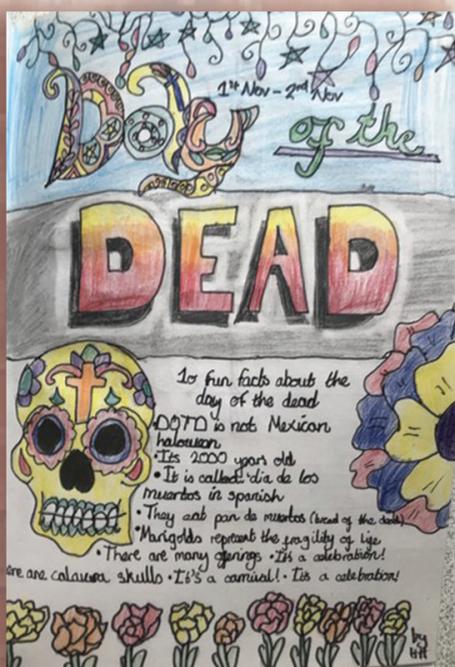
Freya F. Year 8



Year 7



Year 7



Harry H. Year 8



Day of the Dead Year 8

Creative Piece By Annalisa R.

I trudged out of my cabin, gazing up at the pink sky. Bright, colourful, and bold: the sun reached through the clouds, looking over the valley. The whole place had been dusted with pristine snow, like icing sugar from a sieve.

The trees stood, tall and solemn: no longer looming ominously and guarding the dangers of the woods, but now like cake decorations, placed piece by piece. I almost expected the colours in the sky to come dripping down on me, as if it were a newly painted watercolour painting, colours leaking through the clouds, staining them with their glorious colour.

I walked on, admiring the beauty of the sunrise.

I almost felt guilty...I was completely ruining the crisp, fresh snow as it crunched beneath me.

Summer By Harry H.

*The sun peers over the rooftops,
Breaking the stillness of the night.
The sun grows bigger and sharper,
Suddenly I can see; all is bright.*

*As the Dawn Chorus starts outside.
The heat tickles my pale skin,
Opening the curtains,
I allow my day to begin.*

*The golden pendant hangs high;
Casting out wonderful yellow rays.
My whole world is covered,
A honey-coloured haze.*

*A final salute is sent,
Golden hour sends dying throes of light.
The sun dives under the horizon,
And suddenly, it is night.*

Shark Attack By Freddie C.

I just stood there, motionless in the water. I watched as the sea of people waved their arms about, struggling to get to safety. A large shark fin erupted out of the water and began rushing towards me. My blood went cold. Even in this 30 degree weather, I felt frozen. I didn't know what to do. A man in a large inflatable ball was just ahead of the shark, moving his legs frantically to stay ahead. People's heads were submerged beneath the water as they were trampled on by the transparent sphere. I leaped to the side, as the ball was about to run over my head. The shark swam right past me and I could see it just two metres away. Adrenaline surged through me and I swam to shore as quickly as I could. I felt panicked as my arms began to ache from quick, hard movements. I finally felt the sand beneath my feet and sprinted onto dry land. I looked back at the man in the ball and the shark that was chasing him. It had slowly gotten closer and was getting ready to leap up to bite the ball. There were people still running away from the water, shouting and calling ambulances.

I looked back to the transparent inflatable ball, being followed by a tall, threatening fin. Suddenly the shark, looking abnormally large, surged forwards and up, out of the water.

It soared forwards with open jaws and landed on the ball, popping it and consuming the man inside it. There were screams, more than there had already been. It ducked back under the water and fully disappeared. The shock of what just happened spread throughout the crowd, and for one moment no one moved. The fin resurfaced about 10 seconds later and the noise and frantic movement all returned in a flash.

I ran off the beach, away from the rush and the danger and the panic.

The Giver - Epilogue

The shadows retreated while the sun immersed Jonas's eyes with its brightness. He awoke. Flustered, frightened and unaware Jonas searched his surroundings for Gabriel; his cut and scarred hands rummaging through the melted snow. His eyes were blinking rapidly while his desperate hands controlled themselves. His mind was turned upside down with many queries. Where is he? Where did he go? Is he safe? Jonas's thoughts overwhelmed him, speeding past his mind as quick as a blink of an eye. He meticulously arose while his drenched trousers sunk him down. Jonas dragged his feet across the sharp ground with rocks slicing through his torn shoes. His feet were ripped, torn and in agony however, Jonas had to go on.

Every step he took, his neck cracked constantly. His heart was beating intensely as he clutched tightly onto his backpack, while dragging himself across the ground. Jonas trudged at a snail's pace scanning his atmosphere for any clues. He looked for: torn clothes, a trail of leaves, morsels of food. Until he saw something, a miniature indent hiding beneath a leaf. Steadily, he lifted the leaf. Footprints? He gazed forward, unveiling a pathway of footsteps. They were only infant size, about the length of a finger. His eyes followed the track to see where it led to, the community. All the way back, back home. Gabriel had escaped. Jonas's feet had given way, they no longer had energy. But he knew he had to go on, that this journey would take time and effort. He was feeling light-headed, nauseous and perplexed. He resumed his journey.

Lightning danced across the midnight sky, ahead of him Jonas could see his community. He felt relieved and safe that he was near home, near Gabriel and the Giver. As Jonas edged towards the gates he noticed two guards, protecting the community like the Queen's soldiers. He had to enter another way, Jonas crawled over to a tree and clambered up it. Anxious and sweaty he leapt onto the ceiling of the Givers room. BEEP! BEEP! The alarms had been set off. Frantically he searched for a window and sprang into a dull room. All the lights were off and Jonas stood there, alone. His battered hands inspected the room for a switch, a fire, some sort of light. BANG! He clenched his jaw tightly as he heard several people searching the building. Jonas had discovered a light source, he anxiously switched it on, his heart racing while he attempted to stay quiet. Release. Release is what the note said ahead of him.

In an instant, Jonas sprinted to the room of release. Jumping and jolting, he managed to reach the room. There he was, the Giver and Gabriel. Gabriel lay there, dead. Jonas began to cry, his eyes deepened in sorrow until he saw his father on his way to inject the Giver. "NOOOOO!" Jonas shrieked. He bolted into the room and grasped onto the Giver. Suddenly, he saw his memories with the Giver, playing with his friends, entertaining his family and all his joyful memories. His life flashed before his eyes. Jonas immediately felt an excruciating pain in his neck. "Here my boy," Jonas's father spoke as he injected Jonas calmly.

There he was, Jonas lay lifeless on the ground. The Giver wailed with tears outlined on his sorrowful face. The Giver's face deepened with grief. "Now I will go for release."

By Simrah A



Although this year has been somewhat different, the pandemic did not pose a barrier for our KWS students. They were strong, resilient and determined. Our students continued to strive and excel by producing outstanding work throughout the year. We recognise, appreciate and applaud the fantastic skills our students possess, and we are proud to share this success with the Harpenden community.

It gives me immense pleasure to say that this magazine has successfully accomplished its objective. The story of KWS combined with the students' creativity and achievements is the epitome of the magazine. We have put in relentless efforts to bring excellence to this treasure. I take the opportunity to thank my team, Mr Burke and Miss Jones, for their hard work and dedication, and all the contributors.

We hope you have enjoyed the 1st edition of the KWS magazine. This is only just the beginning, and only a few of the many highlights! We look forward to welcoming our new cohort and watching our students continue to flourish.

Here's to a new academic year!

Miss Hassan
Editor, Teacher of English

