



Katherine
Warrington
School

HEADS UP

Newsletter no. 10

7th February 2020

I have been engaged with the first stages of recruitment of staff for the next academic year. The first appointments had to be senior teaching staff as they come with teaching specialisms. The process for the appointment of a Deputy Head lasts two days and ours covered a variety of tasks such as lesson observation, staff panel, student panel, meeting governors, a written test on whole school data analysis and written responses to a variety of scenarios, a presentation and a formal interview. A thorough test for any candidate.

We attracted a large field made up of exceptionally strong existing Assistant Heads at successful schools in Hertfordshire and beyond. I am delighted to announce that we have appointed David Martin to the Deputy Head post. David joins us in September from The Nobel School. David was formerly on the senior leadership team and Head of Science at Roundwood Park School and worked at St George's before that.

In an equally rigorous process, Grace Aikman secured the post of Assistant Head, again from September.

Somewhere in the midst of all that we also appointed two new teachers who will be joining us with language specialisms. Between them they are experienced English, Mandarin, Spanish, French, Latin and Arabic teachers. Latin in Period 7 for September then!

Our recruitment drive continues but it is extremely humbling to see that what we have begun to establish at KWS in terms of our vision, values and practices attracts such quality staff.

I spent Tuesday evening watching our students play rugby on Saracens' pitch under floodlights. I am sure they will cherish the memory.

We aim to run a cycling proficiency week early in the summer term to bring all our students up to level 3 standard. There will also be a refresher opportunity for those who hold level 3 currently but have not cycled recently. More details to follow.

Finally, thank you to all the parents who attended our feedback evening following our recent Parents' Survey. The collective response figures for each question is now available on our website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Tony Smith
Headteacher

Student Achievements



Congratulations to George who recently qualified to swim at the Herts County Championship. He competed in seven races and won six gold medals and one silver medal. He will now race at the Regional Championships in May. In addition to this he attended a presentation where he was awarded 'Herts County Age Group Champion' for 12 year old boys. A fantastic achievement!

Attendance

Attendance is a key contributing factor in any school's success. As a school we have high expectations of attendance and work with students and families to ensure children are accessing as much of their education as they possibly can despite illness and other mitigating circumstances.

We aim to achieve 96% attendance or above by the end of the school year in order to exceed the national average and make sure our students are getting the best opportunities possible both in school and in the future.

We review attendance every two weeks and will contact you if we have any concerns. Most often our contact will be based on short and intermittent absences which we refer to as 'broken weeks'. A student may have had three or four days off but this can soon equate to some students attending school for the equivalent of four days per week.

Based on guidance from the DfE and Herts County Council, any students missing 10% of school sessions (Morning sessions/Afternoon sessions) are considered to be persistently absent and we are more likely to keep a close eye on this type of absence. To miss 10% of a school year is to miss approximately 20 school days. Four weeks of absence, we are sure you would agree, is significant. Across five school years, children will have missed almost half a year of school by the time they sit their GCSEs. This is why we make sure we review student absence regularly.

We are going to be implementing some support in school to make sure some of the work students miss will be caught up with in a study session following the absence. This is because we believe wholeheartedly that every day counts. As we endeavour to support students in this way, we welcome your continued support with this as we draw to the end of the Spring term.

Attendance Ladder



Attendance Procedures: Reminder

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, urgent appointments or other reasons please telephone the 24hr school absence line on 01582 314800 or email absence@kwschool.co.uk **by 8.30am on the first day of absence and every subsequent day thereafter**, giving your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence.

If you have reported their absence by calling or leaving a message on the recorded telephone absence line, please also send a note in or email absence@kwschool.co.uk on the first day they return with an explanation of the absence.

Where possible, please give plenty of notice for any planned absence, for example hospital appointments, and provide a copy of any medical/dental appointment letters/cards to the school. We would appreciate all dental and non-urgent doctor appointments being made out of school hours.

Please [click here](#) to visit the attendance page on our website.

May Parents' Evenings

We can now confirm that the parents' evenings in May will run as follows:

Thursday 14th May	Students with surnames starting A to K
Wednesday 20th May	Students with surnames starting L to Z

Further information will follow nearer the time.

Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet day and will be the focus of our assembly on Monday for the students. We are often asked questions about parental controls for your Wi-Fi at home and [this article](#) from the UK Safer Internet Centre provides some useful information for setting these with the main providers.

Sports Notices

Well done to all of the boys who took part in this week's rugby tournament at Saracens. There was lots of great play against some very tough opponents. KWS had two wins and two losses. It was a very solid performance indeed. Player of the tournament went to Seth L for some fantastic tackling and great tries - well done Seth!



On Wednesday our netball team played a fixture against St George's. The girls pulled together really well as a team, working hard for each other on defence throughout the court and with some great shooting and rebounding. We came away with a great win 15-8. St George's were lovely hosts and we thank them for a fabulous game. They nominated our players of the match as Jasmine D and Thea O.

Mrs McPartlin

Chinese New Year



Recently, we started talking about Chinese New Year in Mandarin lessons and students enjoyed learning to say Happy New Year in Chinese (Xin Nian Kuai Le / 新年快乐!) as well as watching the video about Chinese Lunar New Year and the celebrations and traditions in China.



Last week we continued to celebrate Chinese New Year by having a proper Chinese meal in the canteen decorated in full Chinese style! Students absolutely loved



the food, "Duck rolls and spring rolls are the best!", "Can we have more Chinese noodles and prawn crackers please?", "Can we have spring rolls and Chinese noodles everyday please?", "The decorations and food are amazing!" These are just a few of the comments from students amongst many. Even Mrs Aikman had a go at using chopsticks to eat her lunch!

Mrs Luo

Lunch Accounts

Please ensure your son/daughter's lunch account is kept in credit. As a reminder, you can manage the amount that is spent each day by setting up a 'daily spend limit' on your son/daughter's lunch account by emailing finance@kwschool.co.uk with the amount you require. You can also set up an automatic payment in iPayimpact to make regular top ups. Students who are overdrawn may be asked by canteen staff to bring in a packed lunch the following day until their balance has been cleared.

Bobble Hats

We have just a few purple bobble hats left. These can be purchased online via the iPayimpact shop for £8. If you have any problems with iPayimpact please email finance@kwschool.co.uk. There is no obligation to buy, but they are lovely hats!

This week's notices to parents /carers:

Email: Crumble, our School Dog

Katherine Warrington Association of Friends (KwAF)

Easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Did you know that with one click you can shop online at all your favourite stores and support KwAF – and it costs you nothing!

You will be able to shop at a very wide range of stores online and a donation will be made to KwAF (at no additional cost to you). It's that easy!

You shop
Retailers Donate to
Katherine Warrington
Association of Friends
For Free!

Support this cause

easyfundraising | John Lewis | ebay | Argos | M&S | WAITROSE | ASOS | +4,000 more

Registering & Purchasing with Easyfundraising

It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- Log on to [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com). Click on the 'Support your Cause' tab, log in (if you already have an account) or register (if you are a new user), then search/click on the shop of your choice and make your purchase in the usual way.

There are over 2,700 online retailers available, including John Lewis, eBay, M&S and Tesco and all will give a small percentage of what's been spent back to KwAF to say thank you for shopping with them.

Social Media

Keep up to date with the latest information via the newsletter, website and our social media platforms: **Facebook @KatherineWaringtonSchool** and **Twitter @KWSHarpenden**. If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us.

Non KWS Events / Publicity

The 'Step into your future' Weekend at University College London (UCL)

Are you aged 12-14 and aspire to become a top lawyer, doctor, engineer or investment banker in the future?

The 'Step Into Your Future' Weekend gives you the opportunity to gain an immersive experience in one of these professions right now. You will be coached by leading doctors, engineers, investment bankers and lawyers in how to fulfil your dreams, with guidance all the way from GCSE choices through to A-level/IB, university and beyond.

The weekend is split into four distinct half-day sessions. Saturday will be dedicated to Medicine (morning) and Engineering (afternoon) and Sunday to Law (morning) and Investment Banking (afternoon). Students can choose to attend any number of sessions across the two days.

[Click here](#) for more information.



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15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ

* From landlines and most mobile networks.

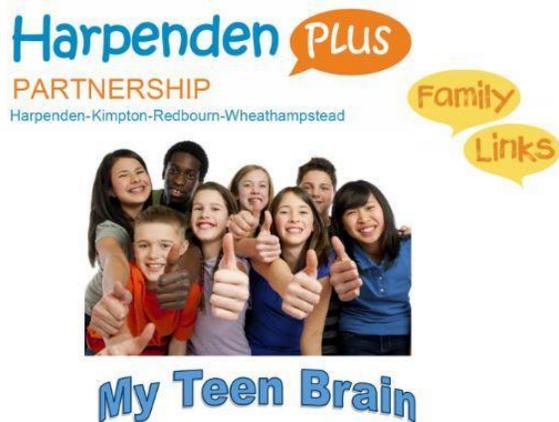
**Do you like helping and talking to people?
Do you have a few hours a week to spare?
Thinking about volunteering?**

Our volunteers are a lifeline to many families going through a difficult time. Become a Helpline Volunteer and enjoy the experience of helping others as well as improving your own wellbeing. If you are good at listening and can spare a few hours a week, we want to hear from you. Full training is provided, you can volunteer from home if you have a PC and good internet connection or at our local branch based in Old Hatfield in Herts.

Email us at suebe@familylives.org.uk for more information.

Visit us at www.familylives.org.uk

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Harpenden PLUS
PARTNERSHIP
Harpenden-Kimpton-Redbourn-Wheathampstead

Family Links

My Teen Brain

A Free* 4 week course for parents and carers of children aged 12 to 18

The course will give you the opportunity to learn about:

- Being the parent of a teenager - the role of the parent and how to respond to difficult feelings
- Understanding your teenager - development, parenting styles, praise and criticism
- Communicating with your teenager - talking and listening, handling difficult situations
- Managing conflict with your teenager - rules and boundaries, problem solving

Fridays 9:30 - 11:45

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March

In the Jubilee Room at Sauncey Wood School, Harpenden AL5 5HL

All information is correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to change.

*£50 if your child does not attend a HarpendenPlus Partnership school

List of partnership schools:
Beech Hyde, Crabtree schools, Grove schools, Harpenden Academy, High Beeches, Kimpton, The Lea, Marland, Redbourn, Roundwood Park, Roundwood Primary, Sauncey Wood, Sir John Lawes, St Dominic, St George's, St Helen's, St Nicholas, Wood End

[To register your interest please email dmarlsen@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dmarlsen@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk)

You will be sent a booking form and places will be secured upon receipt of your completed form and £20 refundable deposit

Is heat leaking from your home?



Borrow one of Sustainable St Albans' Thermal Imaging Cameras to find those draughts and cold spots.

Create a more energy saving home this winter!



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- Improve your insulation where needed

FIND OUT MORE!

www.sustainablestalbans.org/thermal-imaging



Registered charity no 1173118



DSPL7 would like to invite parents and professionals to the **SEND Information Village** Wednesday 4th March 2020, 10am – 12pm The Hub, Fleetville Junior School

ABOUT THE EVENT

An opportunity to meet and talk to Specialist Advisors, Educational Psychologists, Service Providers and representatives from Special Schools, Oaklands College and the Voluntary Sector.

The SEND information village is a gathering of professionals dedicated to providing specialist support to children and young people (0-25 years) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Some of those attending include:

DSPL7 SEND Team, NESSIE, Harpenden Plus Partnership, St Albans Plus Partnership, Links Academy Outreach Service, Speech, Language and Communication team, HPCI, SENDIASS, Carers in Hertfordshire, KIDS Hub, Independent Support Practitioner, The Collett Outreach Team, Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database, Add-vance, SPACE, Families in Focus, Early Years SEND Team, The EP team and more.....



DETAILS

DATES: Wednesday 4th March 2020

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm

VENUE: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW

COST: Free for parents and professionals

PARKING: There is no parking at the school. Free parking is available in the surrounding streets and at the local supermarket.

REFRESHMENTS: Provided

TO BOOK:

Email admin@dspl7.org.uk

admin@dspl7.org.uk

01727
519229



www.dspl7.org.uk



Teens and Sleep: The Importance for Well-being - Talk

team@keystoneworkshops.co.uk
@KeystoneWS
KeystoneWorkshops



Summary



It is very common for young people, and adults, to have difficulty sleeping. It is normal to struggle with sleep around important events, even positive ones such as parties or holidays. One or two nights of poor sleep does not necessarily forecast a problem and most young people can cope

with that and catch up. However, if someone has been sleeping badly for a few weeks, this may be a good time to try and change things.

Sleep problems can sometimes be triggered by something bad or difficult happening. For example, being bullied or having negative experiences with friends can lead to trouble sleeping. Young people are also often under pressure from school to perform well in exams or coursework, and may be involved in other hobbies that bring pressure from competitions or exams. However, sometimes sleep problems seem to appear out of the blue. This is not uncommon in young people due to natural changes in sleep cycles that arrive with adolescence.

Our speaker is an expert in the field of sleep and adolescent wellbeing. In this talk she will discuss the changes in sleep that occur during adolescence, its effect on school work and mental wellbeing, and practical things that that can be done to promote better sleep. These techniques can also be useful for all members of the family.

Who is this talk for?

This talk is for parents, grandparents and carers of children aged 11 to 19.

What parents will gain from this talk?

An understanding of the biological, psychological and social changes that affect sleep in adolescence.

Information about the relationship between sleep and mental wellbeing, and how improving one can have an impact on the other.

Knowledge of the current successful strategies for managing difficulties in sleeping.

Advice on practical changes which can be implemented to encourage better sleep quality.

Event Details

Date: Wed, 4th Mar

Time: 19:15 – 21:15

Location: CHANGE OF VENUE: Fleetville Juniors School, St Albans, AL1 4LW

Cost: £19.50pp

About our speaker

Dr Faith Orchard is a Chartered Psychologist conducting research examining the development, maintenance and treatment of child and adolescent anxiety and depression, based at the Anxiety and Depression in Young People (AnDY) Research Clinic at the University of Reading. Faith's work is currently focused on the role of sleep in adolescent mental health, and she has developed the 'Sleeping Better' programme which is being piloted in the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, as well as in local schools.

Faith has published a number of journal articles on child and adolescent mental health, and presents her research internationally, as well as delivering teaching on sleep for professionals in schools and mental health services. She is passionate about improving the lives of young people and their family, and regularly engages with the local community in the development and dissemination of her work.

Booking is essential. Book NOW

Events are regularly updated, for a full list of future events visit: www.keystoneworkshops.co.uk

For more Keystone information [click here.](#)