



Katherine
Warrington
School

HEADS UP

Newsletter no.14

11th September 2020

We have had a smooth start to the new academic year. All the organisation to keep Year 7 and Year 8 in their own 'bubbles' seems to be working; students are following our new practices of frequent hand washing or sanitising and staff are enjoying hearing students' voices around the place. Given the circumstances, everyone has responded really well, so my thanks to all the parents/carers who have helped ease any anxieties.

My main news is that our Sports Centre is on schedule to be handed over to us within the next two weeks. There was a delay (virus related) with some of the internal side panels which are made by a specialist company in Sweden. However, Kier has worked around that and things are back on schedule. I've decided to have all the legacy areas repainted so it's a fresh start throughout. It should be in full use for the school and lettings by the end of September.

Due to virus restrictions our library cannot operate as normal. So in true KWS style we've come up with an even better solution giving students both a click and 'to your desk' delivery option and, via our new e-platform, access to thousands of titles on their chromebook as well as hundreds of audio books available to them in school and at home. Please see Mrs Aikman's piece in this newsletter.

We have Year 7 and Year 8 being served and eating in separate areas. This has stretched our caterers but they are managing well, with one new student responding to my question "How's the food?" with the comment "If you're having a packed lunch, you're missing out!". Portion numbers are always an initial challenge starting off as no one wants to see good food wasted but things seem to have settled down quite quickly. On a separate note, I would also like to add my congratulations to Sam, our head chef; his partner gave birth to a baby boy last weekend.

During Covid-19 we are allowing all parents who bring students to school by car to drop off on site at the start of the school day. Collection is different. After school please identify a place 5-10 mins walk away from the school gate and arrange to meet there. Please park considerately (not in front of driveways) and turn your engines off.

Rugby training will recommence at Harpenden Rugby Club shortly. Please see the notice from Mr Alexander in this newsletter. As we entered lockdown, I never got a chance to

really thank the parents who came along and helped coach in the last academic year. It was fantastic to get that help and my sincere thanks goes to them for giving up their time to benefit our students.

We have started a salary sacrifice scheme for staff to purchase bicycles. I've invested in one myself and having not ridden a bike for 30 years I can truly say I'm leading from behind!

Some recent pictures of the Sports Centre and Dance Studio are below.

Enjoy your weekend.

Tony Smith
Headteacher



Sports Hall



Dance Studio

Student Achievements

This week's house points winners are Franklin with 365 points - well done!

Library

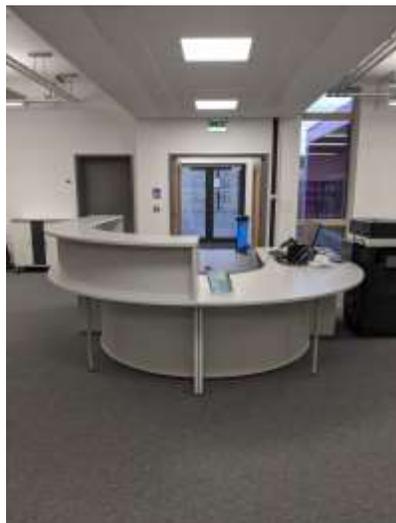


The Library is a source of constant excitement for us in the English department at Katherine Warrington School! We are so pleased to now have our new online and physical library up and running.

With the help of a library consultant, we now have books on the shelves that include a diverse range of learning resources. Fiction is abundant and there is also a range of non-fiction texts students can access if they have any specific interests.

Based on government guidance regarding COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to close our physical library to all students. However, we are not dismayed. Ruairi, Neomi, Becky, Anton and Ben in Year 8 have kindly agreed to take the role of library monitors. They have enjoyed their library training this week...who knew using the scanner could be so much fun!?

Therefore, our students can reserve books online using 'Access-it' and will then have them delivered to their form room later that week. When returning books, we have a quarantine system so that no books are reshelfed or reissued until they have had the right period of time in the quarantine box.



During transition week, Year 7 have been delighting in our new ePlatform which boasts hundreds of new titles and allows them to access a range of audio books. We are pleased to say that forgetting your reading book is no longer possible at KWS! We look forward to helping Year 7 get started with The Big Purple Challenge when our Library is ready to go from Monday next week.

Our Read Aloud texts for this half term are Holes by Louis Sachar for Year 7 and The Haunting of Jessop's Rise by Danny Weston for Year 8. We can't wait to keep you updated as we make our way through these novels as a year group.

Mrs Aikman and The Library Team

Chromebooks



Our new Year 7s have been busy learning how to set secure passwords on their new Chromebooks, alongside getting to know many of the online tools they will use in their lessons.

They have explored the KWS Student Google Site, with its link to all subjects, along with Arbor and Show My Homework. We have also been starting to get to know the Google Suite - looking at Mail (and a first look at email etiquette) along with Classroom, Drive and Docs.

Mrs Coomber & Mr Inns

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 later in the term 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.

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 to 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.

If your child or anyone in your family are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 please follow the latest government advice.

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

Mrs Aikman

Sports Notices

We are planning to return to providing a rugby club for both Years 7 and 8, starting on Saturday 19th September at Harpenden Rugby Club between 9-10am. Currently, it will be non-contact and we welcome both boys and girls. Year groups will be kept separate for this session. In addition, we would welcome parental support with this and ask that if there are any parents that would be willing to support with the coaching of these sessions, please could you email Mr Alexander: **j.alexander@kwschool.co.uk**. Hopefully further clubs will return to school as time progresses. Many thanks.

Mr Alexander

China Day

Tea-Riffic!

Menu

红茶(Red tea) - small: C15 - large: C20
This made with the finest ingredients found all around the world, all brought together to make a fabulous tea served hot or cold. Large includes the special organic milk to give you a breakfasting milk experience.

绿茶(Green tea) - small: C15 - large: C20
This green tea is made from the richest tea leaves and processed by only the finest craftsmanship. Sweet, it promises you a flavor explosion (combination of a nutty, vegetal, buttery, floral, fruity, and oozing sensation).

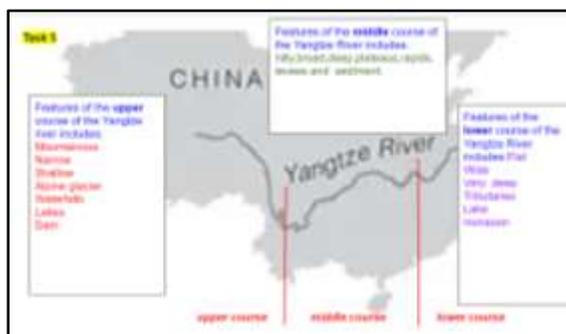
白茶(White tea) - small: C20 - large: C25
The more in a白茶 tea experience will have you understand the truth of floral blend will always leave you craving back for more. It's different (especially from its) with going to have you make and sipped for the day.



We had three exciting Chinese culture sessions during our transition week. In the tea session we learned about colours in Mandarin, tea history and Chinese tea culture. Students created a leaflet for their own tea shop. Students were very creative and hardworking including many details in their leaflet design. 8 Nightingale went the extra mile, setting up their tea shops in the classroom and shopping in each other's tea shop.

In the session on the Great Wall of China we learned about its history and a popular Chinese myth. The students were able to state several facts about how and why the Great Wall was built and were able to recount the myth concerning Lady Meng Jiang.

In Geography we looked at the mighty Yangtze River; from its source in a Tibetan glacier, through the Three Gorges Dam, to its mouth at Shanghai, learning about what the river is like and how it changes as it winds its way through 6300km of China. One student per class, who showed the best sustained effort and work won a highly coveted panda pen!



Mr Chen

Trust Board

A warm welcome to the Autumn term to all of our KWS families, both old and new! A reminder that Trustees and Governors are, in essence, the same thing and are basically a group of volunteers who work with Mr Smith and the Senior Leadership Team at KWS to help drive further school improvement. We will use these newsletters to keep you updated and informed of our work over the course of the year and if you are interested in who we are, there is further information on the website.

As well as welcoming the Year 8 children back and the Year 7 children joining our school, we are also saying hello to two new trustees this term. Dimple Mistry joins the board as a Human Resources specialist. Dimple works in London for a sovereign wealth fund and has experience managing teams and succession planning for the European division of a global company. John Burt joins us as an Education specialist having spent 20 years working at primary level with more than 10 years' experience as a Headteacher.

John now works at the University of Hertfordshire supporting and mentoring those training to become teachers and is also a governor at a primary school in Luton. We welcome John and Dimple to our small team and thank them for the time they are committing to this rewarding role.

Some of you may be aware that Claire Robins, the Headteacher of Sir John Lawes School in Harpenden, has been involved with establishing KWS since its conception. Claire's role as a trustee has now ended and we would like to thank her for her many years of dedication helping to get Katherine Warington off the ground - even when it looked like we may never get planning permission! We are delighted to announce that Claire will continue to support the school as a Member of the Board. This is a slightly different role to that of trustee but rest assured, she'll continue to keep her eye on what the Board is doing and make sure that KWS goes from strength to strength.

Our final word this week is about the new regime at school in terms of Covid-19. The staff have worked hard in challenging circumstances to make the school site as safe as possible and I would like to thank you, on their behalf, for your support in adhering to the new procedures and rules in place to help protect the children as well as the adults in school. I'm sure 2020 will continue to challenge us all but with resilience and an ongoing commitment to learning, we can continue to see the students thrive. Have a great week!

Helen Parkinson - Chair of Trustees

Upcoming Events

Saturday 12th, 19th and 26th September - Year 6 tours of the school – Bookings must be made online

Monday 21st September – Year 8 HPV Immunisations

Friday 2nd October - Inset Day - No students in school

Saturday 3rd, 10th and 17th October - Year 6 tours of the school – Bookings must be made online

Wednesday 16th December - Winter Showcase

Term Dates:

Autumn Term

Inset Day: Friday 2nd October - No students in school

Half Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Autumn Term Ends: Friday 18th December at 12.05pm

Spring Term

Inset Day: Monday 4th January 2021 - No students in school

Spring Term Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2021

Half Term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

Term Ends: Friday 26th March at 12.05pm

Summer Term

Inset Day: Monday 12th April - No students in school

Term Starts: Tuesday 13th April

May Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Term Ends: Thursday 22nd July at 12.05pm - To be confirmed

This week's notices to parents /carers:

Year 8 HPV Immunisation Consent Reminder

KWS Vacancies

Senior Learning Support Assistant - for more information, please see the Teach in Herts website or [click here](#).

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

Harpenden Town Football club will be playing a FA Cup match this Saturday 12th September against Aveley Football Club. Kick off is at 3pm. Tickets cost £6 Adult, £3 concessions Pensioners and Students. Plus 50p booking fee. To book tickets [click here](#).

With the continuing uncertainty surrounding group meetings and social contact, **Supporting Links**, along with their commissioners at Herts County Council, are offering Online Parenting Support Groups for the duration of the Autumn Term. Courses include; Understanding Behaviour in your child with Additional Needs, Talking Families (2 courses), Talking Teens (2 courses), Talking Dads amongst many others. [Click here for booking information](#).

NESSie parent training are also providing guidance for parents/carers with children up to the age of 13, who may be experiencing anxiety. [Click here for booking information](#).

**** Urgent Fundraising Plea for Alviar ****



Alviar left Roundwood Park this year. He has been tirelessly battling Leukaemia since 2017. Can you help him raise funds for a treatment which could save his life? Please read the extract from his Gofundme page below To read Alviar's full story and to make a donation, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/alviars-chance-for-a-future>

Hi, I'm Alviar. An ordinary teenager living near St Albans in the UK. Except I have Leukaemia. Unfortunately the bad kind. These days 90% of Leukaemia patients are cured. I'm in the 10%. Intense chemotherapy, a bone marrow transplant (from my twin brother Justin) and other treatments have all failed to kill the cancer. I've been told I've just a few months to live. I was also told a year ago my Leukaemia was "incurable". That was until a few weeks ago. A specialist team in Singapore have a brand new treatment. It cured Oscar, a 5 year old boy in the UK (you can read about Oscar [here](#)). And I've just been told I'm eligible for the same treatment. But the treatment is in Singapore. And it costs £500,000. It sounds huge. How are we going to raise that? But as my mum and dad say, "we just need 50,000 people to give £10 and we're there...or just 5,000 to give £100!" That's it. Please give me my chance. To beat this cancer and live.

That's my plea. But it's not my story. My story is below. Please read it. So you get to know me. And thank you for reading this. I can't tell you how amazing it is that ordinary people want to reach out and help someone in need.

Thank You.
Alviar

[Click here](#) if you would like to make a donation to Alviar's fund.

High Street Players are performing an amateur production of 'A Dolls House' at KWS. Dates and booking information are in the flyers below alternatively [click here](#).

High Street Players present an amateur production of

A Doll's House

by HENRIK IBSEN
English language version
by SIMON STEPHENS
directed by Mike Lees

Friday September 18th at 7.30pm
Saturday September 19th at 2.30pm
Saturday September 19th at 7.30pm
Sunday September 20th at 2.30pm

at Katherine Warrington School,
Lower Luton Road,
Harpenden, AL5 5FH

Tickets £10 from 01582 766096
or online from hsplayers.org.uk

www.hsplayers.org.uk

Seating capacity will be reduced to allow for social distancing.
Please bring your own seat with you for the evening.
See reverse of flyer for details of our Covid-19 measures.

A Doll's House

Our production of The Dolls House has been specially created to follow the Government guidelines for the performing arts. Please do show your support for the cast and crew by coming along and enjoying some live theatre here in Harpenden!

We will be putting the following arrangements in place to keep you safe:

- Our friendly front of house team will guide you to the performance area by a route which permits social distancing
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and in other situations as needed.
- Seating will be in household groups with each group separated from the stage and other neighbouring groups.
- All seats will be sanitised between performances.
- Ample toilet facilities will ensure that queuing is kept to a minimum, with all toilets regularly cleaned and sanitised.
- Cast and crew will not mingle with the audience and form of house team.

Please can you

- keep your personal belongings with you at all times and only bring what you need to enjoy the performance.
- Wear a face mask when necessary.
- Maintain social distance at all times.

We will of course continue to follow Government guidelines as they are updated.

Flowers by Catherine is a local independent florist who grew up and lives in Harpenden. She produces gorgeous flowers for weddings, events and occasions as well as plants, gifts and is the local stockist for Frenchic paint. KWS are very keen to support and promote local people and businesses and Catherine brightens up our reception area with her regular donations of flowers.

Catherine will be opening her own florist shop in Wheathampstead High Street on 1st October 2020. Please visit her website and/or Facebook & Instagram pages for further information.

<https://flowersbycatherine.com>

<https://facebook.com/flowersbycatherine>

<https://instagram.com/flowersbycatherine>



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