



Katherine Warrington School

HEADS UP Newsletter no. 21

15th January 2021

Luckily somewhere along the line we managed to bake adaptability into the DNA of Katherine Warrington School. It means that we meet the current challenges with resilience and positivity.

Foremost I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students. We should not underestimate the pressures that our current circumstances put on the shoulders of our young people. It is difficult as adults to keep focused; it is even harder if you are younger. So well done KWS students for high attendance and fantastic engagement with remote learning.

Behind every engaged student is a supportive parent. A deep and sincere thank you from all the KWS staff to parents and carers who are supporting students. Our unity has never been needed as much and thankfully has never been so strong; long may it continue. On behalf of staff, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to communicate kind words and appreciation of our efforts; it means so much to us, thank you.

Our remote school offering has escalated to include more live lessons. We were prepared for this, with some meticulous planning in case we entered into another long term lockdown. It is a concrete example of staff preparing for the worst but hoping for the best. I feel incredibly honoured to have staff who respond to intense challenges with such positivity, energy and care. What we are currently doing, what we are all currently achieving, is only possible because we are doing and achieving it together.

Teaching staff are dividing their time between live lessons preparation, delivery on our remote platform and supervising key worker/vulnerable students in school. We have considerably more students in school than in previous lockdowns. To accommodate this and minimise staff exposure, we have collapsed the separate Year 7 and Year 8 bubbles into one bubble and students access remote learning from the hall. Although we would welcome any student who would benefit from being in school, our constraint is staff availability. If we exceed the numbers we can accommodate, socially distanced in the



hall, we will need to allocate more teaching staff to supervise. In turn that will mean we will have to reduce the amount of live lessons we offer remotely, so please be mindful of this when you are considering approaching us about students learning in school. Please [click here](#) to read a letter from HCC regarding this.

We have testing facilities set up in school and have tested all staff and students who have agreed to be tested. We intend to continue testing weekly until further notice. I would like to thank all the parent and staff volunteers who have made this possible.

It was our intention to send out a survey to parents in the winter term to gain your thoughts on how we were doing as a school, followed by a survey to students this term and staff in the summer term. Circumstances have got the better of us. It feels more sensible to roll the surveys together and do them all in the summer term so that the data we obtain is not subject to current circumstances.

Mandarin lessons for parents start next week. We've got a full class but the lessons are recorded and will be on the website so if you didn't sign up, you can still participate. Come out of lockdown with basic Mandarin conversation.....that will top ukulele players!

Finally, congratulations to Miss Anderson who has been accepted to do a Masters in Maths Education at Cambridge University (she isn't leaving, it's two years part time) and Mrs Grainger who has just begun her SENCo training.

Tony Smith
Headteacher

House Events

The CyberFirst Girls Competition provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire young women to consider a career in cybersecurity. The competition is a team event, with each one made up of four female students from Year 8. This is a fantastic opportunity to represent the school externally, click on the following link to find out more:

<http://ow.ly/4lqd5oCZijA>

If you are interested, either in a group or individually please email a.jones@kwschool.co.uk.

House Points

The house points winners for the last two weeks are **Keller** - congratulations!

Form	Totals Year 7	Totals Year 8	Overall
Ali	160	270	430
Armstrong	188	197	385
Franklin	183	286	469
Keller	288	410	698
Nightingale	194	271	465
Tesla	208	285	493

Sports Notices

Although PE tasks during lockdown are optional, we would strongly encourage our students to engage with the PE challenges set on Google Classroom, as well as additional physical exercise, such as bike rides, runs etc. Please let Mr Alexander know of any impressive challenges being completed! Physical exercise has been shown to have hugely positive effects on mental health and wellbeing too.

We have recently created a facebook and Instagram account for the KWS PE department. Content includes PE activity within the school community, general sport content and potentially some physical challenges for you to complete - particularly during lockdown 3.0! Please follow us at [Instagram @kwschoolsport](#) and [Facebook @KWSchoolSport](#)

Mr Alexander

Bebras Computing Challenge Competition Results



Back in November all our students took part in Bebras, an online logical thinking challenge that is sponsored by Google and Oxford University. Year 7 competed in the Junior Competition and Year 8 stepped up to take part in the Intermediate one this year.

We received the results back in December and are so proud to be able to report that:

- 44 of our Year 7 and 41 of our Year 8 students achieved a MERIT
- 47 of our Year 7 and 33 of our Year 8 students achieved a DISTINCTION

The following students achieved within the top 10% of all students who took part across the country, which is a fantastic achievement - well done!

Year 7: Charlie B, Ted B, Alexander C, Lucas C, John D, Gabriel K, Hayden L, Mia T, Louisa T, James T, Hannah W.

Year 8: Ruairi A, Alex C, Becky D, Oliver G, Finley M, Tom M, Max O, Walt R.

These students get to compete in the prestigious Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) in the week commencing 22nd February and have this week been sent details of how to get practising for this.

We would like to extend a big well done to all our students for taking part, a certificate awaits each of them, to be given out in their computing lessons once we are all safely back in school.

Mrs Coomber & Mrs Wall

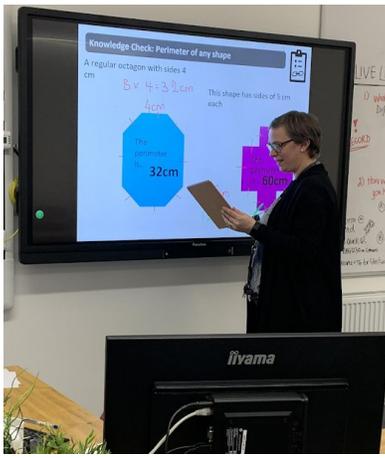
Live Maths Lessons

Whilst remote lessons delivered live will never be as good as having our students learning in our classrooms, we are really pleased with how well our students are participating in live maths this term.

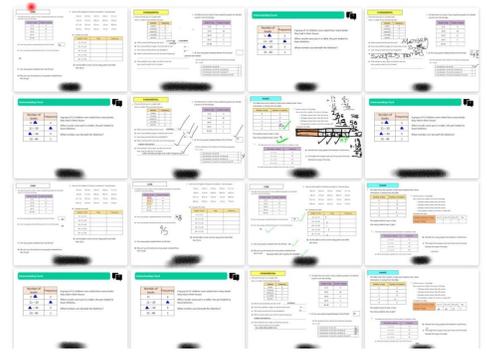


Our focus is always on supporting all of our students to be successful in maths and to see this still happening while we are working remotely puts a huge smile on the maths team's faces.

With the help of whiteboard.fi we are able to have students doing loads of great maths in a way that we can see and interact with, whilst they can also watch us 'chalk and talk' them through examples



and questions on the interactive whiteboards in our classrooms. The online whiteboards mean we can continue to set highly differentiated work, supporting students as needed whilst also really challenging others.

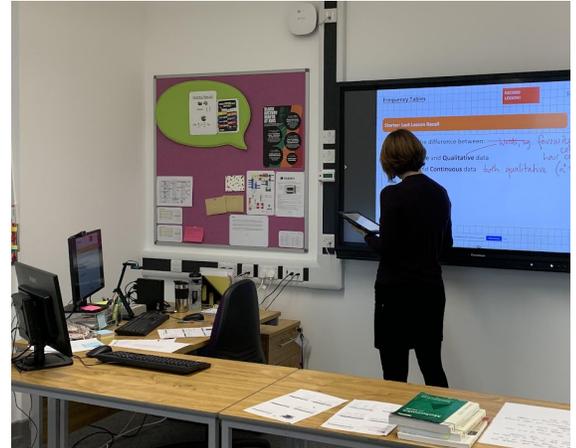


To do this we deliver our Maths lesson on four screens, so we can see the Google Meet chat, present slides, write on these

slides and then watch all our students work on their online whiteboards.



We are often supported by one of the SEND team, who joins us in the classroom, on the Google Meet and in



the whiteboards session to provide additional feedback and support for some of our students as they get to grips with new content.

Our work with Year 7 this half term is focused around the key concepts of Addition & Subtraction and then Multiplication & Division, applying them to shape, algebra, fractions, decimals and even standard form. Our last lesson this week got our students starting to get to grips with how utility bills work - perhaps you could show them your latest bill at home and/or your gas/electricity meter to bring this learning to life.

Year 8 have just finished a unit on the Cartesian Plane (a fancy way of saying lots of graph work!) and are now looking at Data, Tables and Probability before we move on to further developing their algebra skills later in the half term.

Mrs Coomber, Miss Anderson & Mrs Wall

English Updates

The English department has been excited to get started with some new schemes of work despite school closures, ensuring that the Year 7's 'The Power of Language' unit and Year 8's 'Dystopian Fiction' unit were ready to be delivered remotely via Google Classroom and through the Live Lessons.

Year 7 this half term will focus on how to develop their skills of persuasive writing. To do this they will look at both school issues and wider political issues. Students will explore debates and arguments from abolishing homework to global economic inequality. Along the way, students will develop their ability to use persuasive techniques in their writing and their ability to perform in front of an audience. We were so proud of their efforts in the War and Conflict unit. Students enjoyed the novel and wrote some stunning essays.

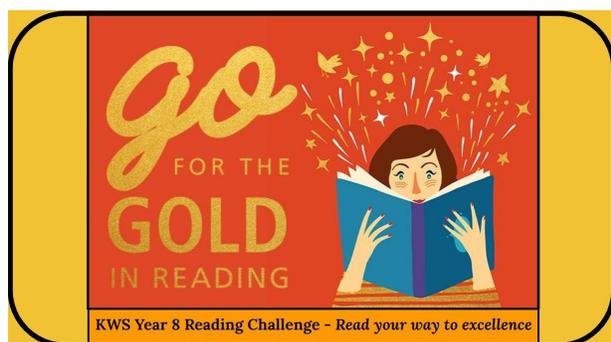
Year 8 this half term will focus on two key skills - reading and writing. Our new Dystopian Fiction unit gives students the opportunity to practise these skills whilst exploring an exciting Dystopian text, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

We thoroughly enjoyed teaching *A Christmas Carol* in the lead up to Christmas and despite the challenges of remote schooling in those last couple of weeks, Year 8 students still completed some amazing pieces of work!

As a department, we have been very grateful for the support we have received from parents/carers. We know that our subject challenges students to complete extended writing pieces and sometimes takes students out of their comfort zone as they are asked to engage with writing that really stretches them. However, with the support of families and the determination of some very resilient students, we are so pleased to still see students making good progress. We hope this can continue into this next period of remote learning.

Year 7 continue to work towards milestones and goals in their work on *The Big Purple Reading Challenge*. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to read for pleasure at home and we always welcome questions from parents who are struggling with reluctant readers at home.

Finally, Mrs McPartlin has worked very hard to create a varied and original reading challenge for our Year 8 students which will be launched later this month. More details to follow.



Calling all Year 8s

Did you know that students who read for just half an hour a day can be up to a year ahead of those who don't by the time they are 15. Whether you are a great reader, or a reluctant one, there is only one way to improve...

So this new year,

- Can you challenge yourself to **read your way to excellence**?
- Can you **Go for the Gold** in your reading?

Coming soon... a Year 8 challenge that everyone can complete worth up to 25 House Points, certificates sent home to your parents, chocolates and a prize draw for vouchers.

Mrs Aikman, Mrs McPartlin and Miss Hassan

Year 8 Options

Year 8 students will soon be asked to make their final Key Stage 4 option subject choices, in preparation for their studies in Year 9. To support students and their families we are currently creating a webpage that provides guidance, details of subjects available and information (including videos) of what each subject entails. Keep an eye out for an email next week that will direct you to the webpage.

Mr Martin

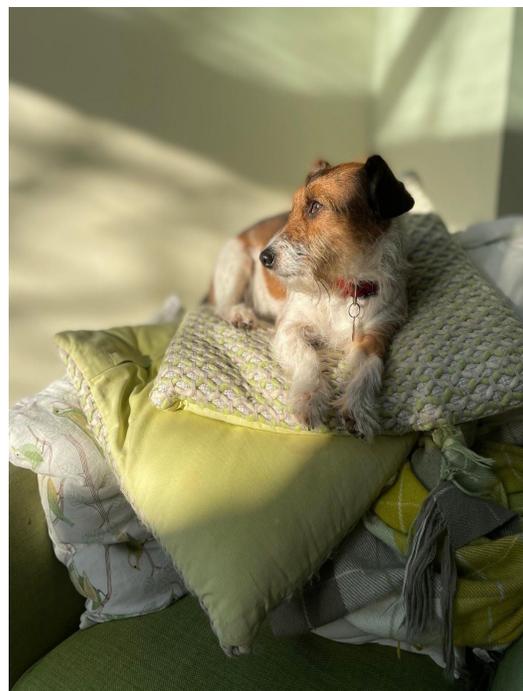
Katherine Warington Association of Friends (KwAF)

Over the Christmas period you helped KwAF to raise around £1200 in both the Christmas raffle and online auction. There were over 33 lucky raffle winners (most prizes we were able to deliver virtually) as well as six raffle bundles with a big focus this year on supporting local companies. Congratulations to all the winners!

Sadly, whilst the end of last term was cut short and Christmas dinner and non-uniform day were unable to happen, KwAF were still able to run their Winter photography competition. We had some fantastic entries and are pleased to announce the two winners from year 7 and 8 respectively were Dominic K and Anna D. Dominic won a family doorstep photoshoot with Celine Hare and Anna has won a photoshoot with family or friends with Jo Barnes. Well done both!



Dominic K – Year 7 Winner



Anna D - Year 8 Winner

KwAF will be running more events in the run up to Easter. If you would like to get involved and support your school's parents' association please email kwaf@kwschool.co.uk or look out for updates on [Facebook @kwafkws](#). If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

Social Media

Keep up to date with the latest information via the newsletter, website and our social media platforms by clicking on the links below:

[Facebook @KatherineWaringtonSchool](#)
[Facebook @KWSchoolSport](#)

[Twitter @KWSHarpندن](#)

[Instagram @kwschoolharpندن](#)
[Instagram @kwschoolsport](#)

If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

Non KWS Events / Publicity

Herts Police - Lives not Knives



Please [click here](#) to read the latest Hertfordshire Constabulary Safer Schools newsletter, Lives not Knives.

Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)

The Education Endowment Foundation provides evidence-based resources to support schools and parents during lockdown learning.

Please [click here](#) to see a tweet from them which details this checklist which assists with supporting home learning routines and planning the day. More information can be found on their [website](#).

Supporting home learning routines
Planning the day

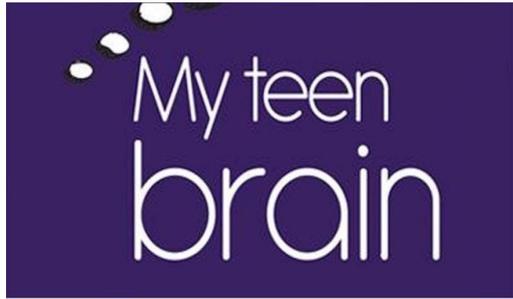
Education Endowment Foundation

Consistent routines are important for behaviour and wellbeing in school and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support behaviour and you will be finding a new rhythm with your family. You could share this checklist with your child. Talk to them to help them plan their new routines.

The importance of simple approaches as part of a regular routine is key recommendation 4 of the EEF's guidance report [Improving Behaviour in Schools](#).

	M	T	W	T	F
I woke up at a good time.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I did some exercise.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I had regular meals and drank water.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I enjoyed some reading in a quiet space.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I practised a maths skill.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I completed some school work at my work space. I chunked it so I had some breaks too.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I talked to my family about my day and how I am feeling. I asked them about their day.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I helped with a household job and talked to my family while I did it.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I contacted my friends.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I spent some time on my creative hobby.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My parent/carer told me what I did well.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My goal:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My goal:	<input type="checkbox"/>				

My Teen Brain



My Teen Brain focuses on a key stage of brain development and shows how changes in the adolescent brain, in conjunction with experience and environment, can affect emotions, relationships, behaviours, sleep and attitudes to risk.

The initiative aims to raise awareness and provide practical information and strategies to professionals and parents. Through training and a range of resources, the initiative will enable them to support young people through this time of change.

Professionals working with either young adolescents (10-14) or their parents are invited to attend a free one-day multi-agency training which will look at changes to the adolescent brain, risks and behaviours and how the learning can help a strength based approach to practice.

THIS FULL DAY TRAINING HAS BEEN ADAPTED TO BE DELIVERED LIVE ONLINE

Dates available are:

Tuesday 19th January, 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 10th February, 10am – 3pm

Thursday 11th March, 10am – 3pm

You can book onto the free one-day training [here](#).

More Information on the changes that take place in the teen brain is available on our dedicated website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/myteenbrain.



Archimake

Does your child enjoy building in **Minecraft, Roblox** or **Lego**? Or **making** or **drawing**...?
Or do they like to **solve problems** and know how things **work**..?
Then they will probably love
Archimake!

10 online workshops
starting:

Thursday
21st January
4:15-5:45

Limited spaces!

Early Bird discount ends
17th January

Archimake is an award winning design & engineering education provider
Join us this term as we introduce 3D digital drawing for beginners (on Sketchup) to design your ideal home, to shape our towns and cities.
(Those who already know Sketchup, may join our intermediate class)
Please send any queries to; hello.archimake@gmail.com

How do I join?

To book visit

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Parent testimonials & Kids past project presentations;

<http://tiny.cc/ampresentations>

See our tutors Welcome Videos;

<http://archimake.org/about>

