



# Katherine Warrington School

## HEADS UP

### Newsletter no. 22

29th January 2021

We have confirmation that schools nationally will not be fully open for all students before 8th March. This gives us a minimum of four further school weeks of remote learning. It is a challenge for students, parents and staff to engage with this method of learning but one we are all striving to meet. We constantly review our remote school offering and from the balance of viewpoints expressed in parental and student feedback, we seem to be getting it about right. The introduction of a 5 minute 'comfort' break between lessons was the most recent update and that seems to have helped students.

Our published calendar included student exams after half term. The intention with this is to be able to identify gaps in students' knowledge and understanding which can be addressed in the summer term before they move into a new year group. However, in the light of current circumstances we have decided to push all exams back until the summer term so we can focus more on teaching rather than assessments when we welcome the students back into school.

Our Year 8 students are beginning to consider their GCSE options and there is an excellent presentation on the process that accompanies presentations from the subject teachers about the course, the requirements and the future career opportunities. More details are provided by Mr Martin below. Teachers will be available at set times during the week of 8th February to answer any additional student or parent/carers questions about their subjects.

The final week of this half term will be a **Wellbeing** focus week. Our normal timetable will be changed to allow for every afternoon to be devoted to a different student wellbeing activity. More details are covered by our pastoral team below.

Mr Alexander became our own Joe Wicks as he launched his after school fitness programme for students (and parents can join in) this week. The sessions have been very popular (photos below). At the same time Mr Chen became our own 'Manuel' (that's showing my age!) with his waiter disguise in parents' Mandarin lessons. If you couldn't catch the lessons live, they are on the website. [Click here](#) to access the lessons and enter the password KWS2020.



As staff, we are doing our own sponsored run/cycle to raise money for Save The Children. You can sponsor us via the donations page on Just Giving. More details and a link is in the section below. We know funds are very tight for many families currently, but any donation, no matter how small, is appreciated. Even I've been convinced to get on my bike and participate!

Finally, our term dates for the next academic year are now available on our website, [click here](#) to view them.

Tony Smith  
**Headteacher**

### House Points

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

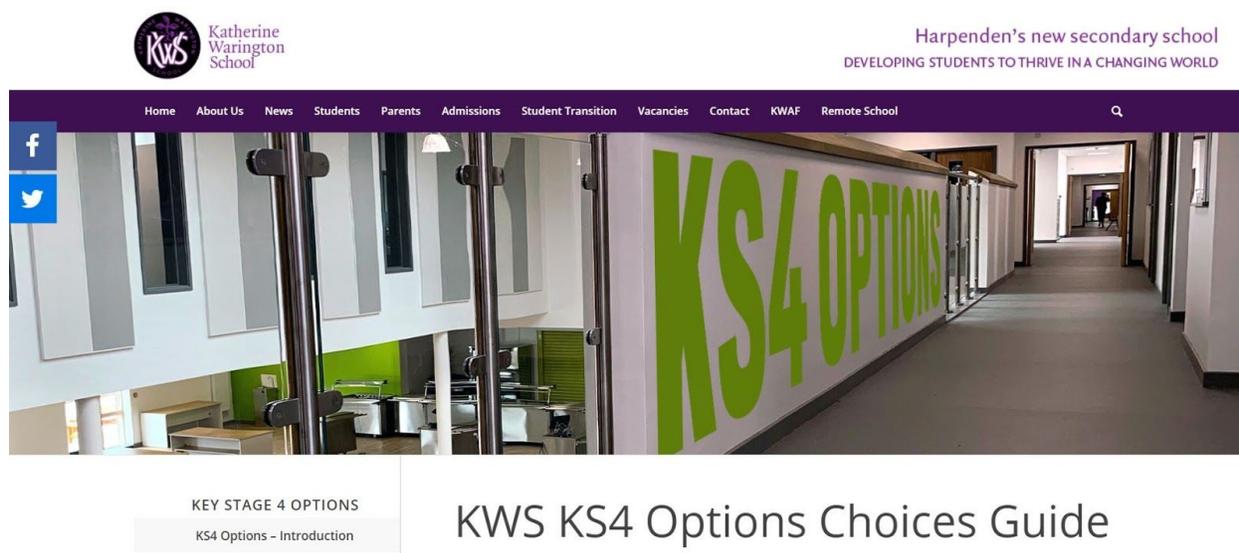
Form	Totals Year 7	Totals Year 8	Overall
Ali	723	742	1465
Armstrong	572	672	1244
Franklin	592	740	1332
Keller	885	844	1729
Nightingale	559	906	1465
Tesla	678	711	1389

## Key stage 4 Options Choices (Year 8) & Website

This week saw the launch of our Options website for Year 8 students to support them in making their selection of courses for Year 9 and KS4 study.

The video on the Introduction page is essential viewing to understand the process and the subject pages have more detailed information about the courses available.

[Click here to enter the KWS KS4 Options page of the website.](#)



Details on how to enter options into our online software will be made available next week to collect choices for the deadline of **Monday 22nd February**.

The school is also offering the opportunity to arrange an 'online meet' with a subject lead, during the week commencing Monday 8th February, to ask any questions. Details of how to book a meeting slot will be sent out next week via email.

This is an important time for Year 8 students, as decisions they make will affect their studies for at least the next three years. Taking time to review the information and researching courses will help the students make the most informed choices.

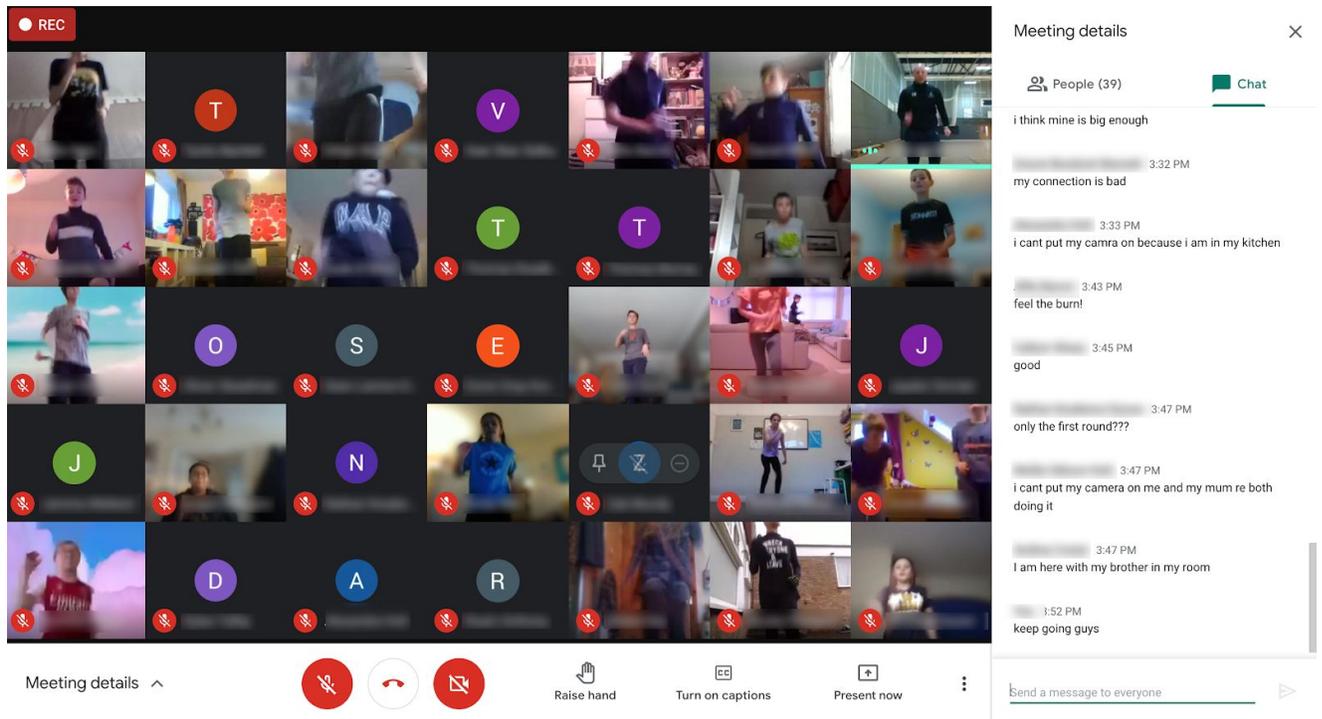
**Mr Martin**

## Sports Notices

This week we have seen a number of students continue to show great commitment to keeping physically active over the lockdown period. Please encourage your child to take part in the physical challenges set on Google Classroom each week and share any photographs or videos on Padlet to inspire others!

Students are also set some written tasks to complete, which links closely to GCSE PE content, so it would be great to have as many students as possible from both Year 7 and 8 familiar with the course content in anticipation of Year 9.

This week we have also seen the successful start of live fitness sessions via Google Meet. We had a great workout on Tuesday at 3.30pm and will have another session today at 3pm. Students will be emailed the link. Moving forward, please encourage your child to take part - it is a 30 minute session. All they need is a water bottle and approximately a 5 yard x 5 yard space to participate - indoor or outdoor. Family members are very welcome to take part too! Healthy Mind, Healthy Body.



You can follow the KWS PE Department on Social Media:

[Facebook @KWSchoolSport](#) and [Instagram @kwschoolsport](#)

***Mr Alexander***

## **Year 8 Reading Challenge**

### **Supporting your child in the KWS Yr 8 Reading Challenge!**

#### **Year 8 - Go for the Gold! - Reading your way to Excellence**

Did you know that reading is THE most powerful tool when it comes to improving yourself in any field that you are passionate about? Reading helps you to be informed and stay competitive. Successful leaders and innovators almost always read and students who read for half an hour a day can be up to a year ahead of those who don't by the time they are 15.

But how do you form a reading habit? Easy. Follow these 3 steps:

1. Make a list of books you might like to read and source them from the Online Library.
2. Identify a 15 minute slot when you can read uninterrupted every day. (If this is too much - start with just 5 minutes).
3. Set a timer and keep a note of how many pages you have read in that time. Watch as it increases with practice.

How does the Year 8 reading challenge work?

1. Pick a level of challenge (Bronze, Silver or Gold)
2. Read some books and newspapers, learn some poems and watch some films
3. Complete a Reading Challenge Online Journal by July 1st 2021
4. Collect your prize!

It's that simple!

Please find all the details, along with a reminder of how to use the Online Library and ways you can help support your child's reading at home: [Click here to access the Go for the Gold - Year 8 Reading Challenge](#)

Finally, Mrs McPartlin is running a Thursday Lunchtime Drop-in Reading Club throughout February to help you to choose and find books and poems you might like. Watch out for notification of the Google meets in Form time.

***English Department***

## Design & Technology - Rocket Launch

This week has seen the very first launch of a model rocket from the KWS site. Watched keenly by students, and aided by the site maintenance team, the rocket left the launchpad at its exact scheduled time.

The solid fuel rocket motor, providing more than enough thrust to clear the nearby sports hall, pushed it rapidly to apogee, at which point there was a four second delay before a secondary explosive charge deployed the parachute recovery system enabling the launch vehicle to float gracefully down to the newly seeded football pitch. One eye witness was even heard to say “Wow that really did go like a rocket sir.”

The launch is the first of many being planned to ignite young imaginations, combining fun with learning about mathematics, science, problem solving, propulsion, aeronautics and rocket history. Many of the world’s most talented space and aeronautics engineers began as young model rocketeers.

At KWS we believe that a model rocket programme in the school will be a great way to inspire our young people to truly reach for the stars.



***Mr Scivyer***

## Wellbeing Week

Before Christmas, all students at KWS engaged in some work on the ‘5 Ways to Wellbeing’. Students learned the significance of Learning, Connecting, Taking Notice, Giving and Being Active in maintaining positive wellbeing.



To support the students' understanding of this, and also promote positive wellbeing amongst students, we are pleased to announce that the week of 8th - 12th February will be 'Wellbeing Week' at KWS.

During this week, students will be given the opportunity to complete tasks and challenges that are set by staff. These challenges will vary from learning new skills, completing physical challenges and creative activities, with students choosing activities that appeal to them from a 'menu' of tasks. Students will have the opportunity to earn house points by submitting evidence of any tasks completed.



In order for students to have their afternoons free to participate in these tasks, their subject timetables will be altered for this week only. Further information on the logistics of the week will be sent out to parents via Arbor. The list of challenges will be communicated to students and parents by Friday, 5th February.

It is hoped that this week will help students to focus on some of these aspects of their wellbeing, have fun and have something to look forward to. We sincerely hope that students enjoy the activities provided to them and that they have fun attempting new things - good luck!

***Mrs Aikman and Miss Phillips***

### **KWS Move for a Month competition for Save the Children**

To raise money for Save the Children the staff at KWS are splitting into two teams, 'Team Cycle' and 'Team Run' to see who can move the furthest, in Km, during the month of February.

According to The Marathon Guide, the running to cycling ratio is 1:3 and so our running team will be three times larger than our cycling team. Our staff will have their own personal distance goals as well as representing their houses, earning a house point for every Km they run or 3 Km they cycle.

Save the Children carry out amazing work to improve children's lives worldwide so please support this great cause and sponsor us on our Just Giving page as the KWS staff sweat it out to help protect the children who need it most.

If you want to see who is competing on each team and to keep tabs on the progress of our staff there will be weekly updates on social media.

Please [click here](#) if you would like to donate.

**Meet Team Run:**



## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Wall

HOUSE: Keller

MOTTO: "I lapped everyone who was sitting on their sofa."

MONTH GOAL: 40 Km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mr Cain

HOUSE: Tesla

MOTTO: "Hard work beats talent."

MONTH GOAL: 40 km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Reid

HOUSE: Nightingale

MOTTO: "Run hard, eat cupcakes...."

MONTH GOAL: 40 km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Ms Bailey

HOUSE: Franklin

MOTTO: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

MONTH GOAL: 15 km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Francis

HOUSE: Keller

MOTTO: "Only look back to see how far you have come..."

MONTH GOAL: 40 Km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Miss Anderson

HOUSE: Ali

MOTTO: "Every km run is a km closer to victory."

MONTH GOAL: 75 km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Coomber

HOUSE: Tesla

MOTTO: "Anything is better than nothing."

MONTH GOAL: 40 Km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Aikman

HOUSE: Armstrong

MOTTO: "Running is a piece of cake."

MONTH GOAL: 20 Km

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## Team Run

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NAME: Mrs Creamer

HOUSE: Keller

MOTTO: "Just keep swimming.... just keep swimming"

MONTH GOAL: 40 Km

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### Meet Team Cycle:



## Team Cycle

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NAME: Mr Martin

HOUSE: Armstrong

MOTTO: "Quitters never win. Winners never quit."

MONTH GOAL: 100 Km

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## Team Cycle

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NAME: Mr Smith

HOUSE: N/A

MOTTO: "Where there's a hill there's a way."

MONTH GOAL: 200 Km

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## Trust Board

The Trustees met this week for the first time since this third lockdown started. Who would have thought that virtual meetings would become so commonplace and familiar?

Spending a few more hours in front of a screen really does help to remind us of the new reality that many of our students are facing on a daily basis. You will be aware that the W in the KWS values stands for Wellbeing, and we spent a good chunk of time considering this during our meeting. How can we help support staff wellbeing, how do we know if our students are OK, what does the school do if they are worried about someone? We may be a fairly new school but it became clear that KWS is also now a community and that community is clearly looking out for each other during this lockdown.

Thank you to all of you. The parents and carers who help to support our young people navigate this crazy time whilst holding down jobs, family commitments and all of the other issues surrounding us at the moment. Thank you to all of the school staff who have really pulled together to provide superb remote learning as well as a safe environment for those children who continue to attend the school site. Thank you to the volunteers who stepped in to support our Covid testing of staff/students and the KWAF team for continuing to fundraise online. We are proud of the community that is being established and excited for the future as the school continues to grow.

Stay safe, be kind and together we are stronger!

***Helen Parkinson - Chair of Trustees***

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday 24th February - Online e-Safety information evening

Monday 8th - Friday 12th February - Year 8 options - Parents 'online meet'

Monday 8th - Friday 12th February - Wellbeing Week

## This week's notices to parents /carers:

The Education Endowment Foundation - Importance of Routines

Christmas Lunch Refund

## Katherine Warington Association of Friends (KwAF)

If you would like to get involved and support your school's parents' association please email [kwaf@kwschool.co.uk](mailto: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!

## KWS Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for:

Teacher of English - [Click here](#) to access our advert on Teach in Herts.

Teacher of Religious Studies / PSHCE - [Click here](#) to access our advert on Teach in Herts

## 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](#)

## Non KWS Events / Publicity

### Hertfordshire Library Service - Click & Collect Library Books

Hertfordshire Library Service is still operating a loan service of library books during lockdown for current and new members, using a free click and collect service. They have a fantastic range of new books on offer to support reading for pleasure, home schooling and wellbeing, all for free.

Library membership also enables your family to take full advantage of Ready Reads – A scheme where the library service selects your book of choice and you collect from a selected library.

To access the click and collect library service [click here](#) and complete the online form.

For those families unable to access online services, please contact the library service on 0300 123 4049 and a member of the team will be able to help fill out the form.

In addition to click and collect, library membership also enables access to a free e-library where children and parents can read or listen to books from BorrowBox

Details of library opening times and up to date information can be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to join the library service, please [click here](#).

## Virtual Black History School

Black Voice Letchworth is a Hertfordshire based organisation, who are currently running a virtual Black History School for children and young people.

If you would like to apply please [click here](#).

For any questions specifically about the school, please email [schoolblackhistory@gmail.com](mailto:schoolblackhistory@gmail.com) or for general enquiries, please email [bvlenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:bvlenquiries@gmail.com)

**THE BLACK HISTORY SCHOOL**

This school is a fundraiser for the UK's 1st Black History Museum Library and School of Cultural and Creative Arts

Ancient civilisations  
The Diaspora Cultures  
International B. History  
Music/ Art /Creativity  
Important people & moments.  
Windrush  
Colonialism  
Slavery  
Inventors  
Civil Rights Movement.  
Laws & Rights  
And so much more....

AGES 5 - 17  
ADULT COURSES AVAILABLE

£80 PER TERM  
ONLINE: SATURDAY'S 17:00 - 18:30

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." - Harriet Tubman

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Who said this?

The Ludio Pro Academy of Cultural and Creative Arts  
MUSEUM & LIBRARY

TEL: 07581720032  
SCHOOLBLACKHISTORY@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.BLACKHISTORYSCHOOLUK.COM