



Katherine Warrington School

HEADS UP

Newsletter no. 1

20th September 2019

I am very proud to be writing the introduction for our first ever KWS newsletter through which we will keep you up to date with events and achievements at KWS. The newsletter will be published fortnightly.

We have successfully completed our Induction Programme at the University of Hertfordshire. Students have spent their time researching and agreeing on anti-bullying rules, British values, Learning to Learn, Mindfulness and debating. Students participated in a tour of the actual Law Court and received an explanation of how a court conducts its business. They also went on a Health and Safety visit to a building site, researched and voted for House names, attended subject lessons and much much more, culminating in today's Graduation Ceremony. Please read on for more details and photos (our website has also been updated with more photos from our first couple of weeks).

Staff have pulled together as a team and worked exceptionally hard throughout the summer to ensure we were ready to welcome the students at the university. We are delighted by the excellent start our Year 7 students have made; they have really taken advantage of this unique experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support, ensuring students have been punctual, in the correct uniform and have been ready to learn despite the extra commute to Hatfield. My thanks also goes to our Trust partners, the University of Hertfordshire, for their warm and accommodating welcome.

I am delighted with the range and diversity of our House names, debated and voted for by our student body. We have a mix of distant past and more recent individuals who have been exceptional and inspirational in their field. Read on to see who the students selected.

We took ownership of the Phase 1 build this week and some staff will begin to organise the school as most of us head off to Knebworth for our Camp Wilderness experience on Monday. We look forward to welcoming students to the Lower Luton Road site on Monday 30th.

Finally, we will ensure that you are kept fully updated with the events that are taking place via the newsletter, website and our social media platforms: **Facebook @KatherineWarringtonSchool** and **Twitter @KWSHarpenden**. If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us.

Tony Smith
Headteacher

Sporting Achievements and Upcoming Events

What a fantastic first few weeks of sport at KWS! Our first Friday saw the whole year group take part in a fun run around the university pitches. We saw an excellent effort from all of our students as everyone participated.

We have now had our first KWS sports fixture, a cross-country



event at Townsend School. A deceptively long course was tackled by 10 of our best runners who all gave 100 per cent. A special mention should be given to Jamie Dear who came 6th in his age category (Year 7 and 8 boys), beating some very strong older students!

This week we had another cross-country fixture and a girls' basketball tournament here at the university.

Well done to all who took part - what an excellent start you have all made!

Miss Anderson



Year 7 Transition

As stated above, students have made an excellent transition to secondary school and have really thrown themselves into all of the new learning opportunities.

One of the most exciting new beginnings at KWS has been the naming of our six houses which, until now, have only been named after colours. We felt it was of great importance to involve the students in this decision making process and so our tutor team have had to wait patiently over the summer to find out who their house would be named after.

On the very first day of school each form was challenged to work in small teams straight away to research one of six possible candidates from six categories (one allocated to each form). The categories were: Artists, Activists, Sports People, Explorers, and Innovators in STEM and Medicine. The students worked hard and produced some very impressive presentations to advocate their allocated individuals. After careful consideration, every member of the form was given a vote and the results are now in!

Henceforth the KWS houses will be known as:

- **Ali house (Blue: after Muhammad Ali)**
- **Armstrong house (Yellow: after Neil Armstrong)**
- **Franklin house (Orange: after Aretha Franklin)**
- **Keller house (Purple: after Helen Keller)**
- **Nightingale house (Green: after Florence Nightingale)**
- **Tesla house (Red: after Nikola Tesla)**

Long may they inspire our current and future KWS students to achieve in line with our values of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Success. We feel really proud that our students took part in a truly democratic process and their decisions have been part of building a future for our school. Well done Year 7!

Mrs Creamer

Our Time at the University

Our students have completed mini projects and activities on:

- **British Values:** Students learned about the importance of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and tolerance and respect for those with different beliefs and cultures.
- **Mindfulness:** Students had a go at meditating and learned the value of focusing on positive thoughts (shining diamonds) rather than negative thoughts, whilst trying out some strategies to help them do this.
- **Anti-Bullying:** All members of our school community reflected on the causes of bullying and the effect that it can have on bullies, victims, bystanders. Students considered how to ensure KWS can become a bully free community and considered how they could support this as individuals within our school.
- **Learning to Learn:** Our Year 7s devised strategies to drag themselves out of the 'Learning Pit' and focused on the importance of having a growth mindset.
- **The Big Purple Challenge:** Mrs Aikman and Mrs McPartlin led English sessions focused on the importance of reading. They launched the Year 7 reading challenge and supported students to complete a reading profile so that they could reflect on how important reading is to them as individuals.



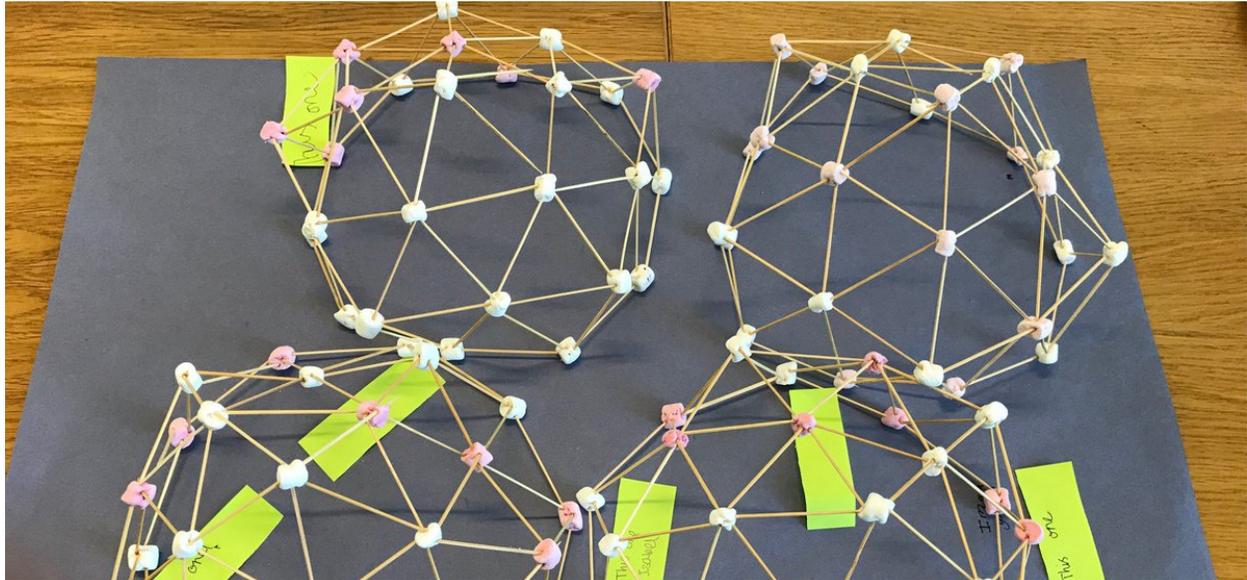
We have been so impressed with our new cohort and more than anything are proud of how students have developed new friendships and have worked together in teams as form groups. The future is looking bright for our Year 7 students.

Mrs Aikman



Science Enrichment

In Science Enrichment sessions students learned about Geodesic Domes, the geometry of the decagon dome and what is special about the structure. Students also made a fantastic attempt at building the dome. Students were immensely engaged in building the dome and most succeeded in producing it to a very high standard (shown in the pictures below). Great teamwork, communication and evaluation skills shone through and it was such a joy to see how much students were enjoying science!



Mrs Luo

Parents' Association

The first meeting of our Parents' Association will take place on Wednesday 2nd October at 8pm at The Reading Rooms, Wheathampstead.

This week's notices to parents/carers:

- **Rugby training**
- **Camp Wilderness info**
- **Keystone information**
- **Voice in a million**
- **Biometric fingerprints**