



School Newsletter



KWS Newsletter - Issue 41 - 14.01.22

Heads up

A warm welcome back to school for the Spring term. Students and staff have returned to an environment with mask wearing, hand washing and window opening. It is not the most conducive environment for teaching and learning but all are adaptive with a positive spirit and students have been incredibly understanding of what is being asked of them. We look forward to the review of requirements from the government towards the end of January. I would like to thank the parent volunteers who kindly gave up time on the day before term started to LFD test our students. I'm happy to report that to date only small numbers of students and staff have tested positive.

A new term is an opportunity to reset expectations and one of those is that students arrive at school on time. We ask any parents/carers who are responsible for bringing students to school, that they do so in a timely manner.

Our new library manager (and author in residence), Yasmin Rahman has already begun to have an impact with a number of eye catching new book displays and a wider diversity of titles available to students. Please encourage your child to visit and pick up a book to read and borrow.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable evening this week at the Gang Show. The time and energy put in by the performers and support teams really pays off in a performance that is a credit to all involved. Congratulations to the KWS students who found the time to be part of those performances.

For Year 8 parents/carers, please note that GCSE options time is fast approaching. All the option subjects available have information and a short video presentation on the website. Please spend some time over the next couple of weeks discussing subject options with your child so that they understand what they are choosing and that it is a sensible choice for their future aspirations.

The new option choices for all year groups for Period 7 goes live towards the end of next week. Again, it is an opportunity for parents to discuss option choices with students to maximise the range and diversity of experiences this unique super-curriculum opportunity holds. The selected options will begin after February half-term. Radio plays and Warhammer were the opportunities that caught my eye at first glance but there are lots more to choose from.

Finally, our recruitment drive for September begins in earnest next week as we welcome candidates for an Assistant Headteacher position. The quality and experience of applicants is exceptional and the number of applicants was rather overwhelming. We interview next week and as football managers are prone to saying, the problem of who to select is one I welcome.

We are forming a uniform committee to review our current uniform and ensure we are compliant with the latest government guidance on School Uniform. The committee will be made up of parents, students and also our two uniform suppliers as well as the School Business Manager. If you would be interested in joining the committee as a parent please email d.inns@kwschool.co.uk to express an interest. The first meeting is planned for Thursday 27th January 2022

Tony Smith
Headteacher

Year 8 - Key stage 4 Options Choices & Website

This week saw the launch of our updated options website for Year 8 students to support them in making their selection of courses for Year 9 and KS4 study. The 'KS4 Options Overview' page is essential reading to understand the process and the subject pages have more detailed information and videos about the courses available.

Click here to enter the KWS KS4 Options Overview page of our website. Key dates and events to support the options process are outlined below.

Option Choices Timeline:

Monday 10th January - Options information and video presentations on website.

Tuesday 25th January - Year 8 Options Evening (join online to meet with subject teachers to learn more about available courses).

Week commencing Monday 21st February - Spring Reports issued.

Thursday 3rd and Monday 7th March - Year 8 Consultation Evening (1-1 meetings with subject teachers) - More details to follow.

Monday 14th March to Friday 25th March - final option choices entered via our online system.

Details on how to enter options into our online software will be made available when the system

goes live in March.

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, as a family, to review the information and researching courses will help the students make the most informed choices.

Mr Martin
Deputy Headteacher

House Points

This week's house points winners are Keller congratulations!



Attendance

Absence Reporting

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 at the latest on the first day of absence and every subsequent day thereafter,**

- Please provide your child's name, tutor and/or year group.
- Please give as much detail as possible for the reason of absence/symptoms. If you state your child is unwell we will need to contact you for more information.
- It is a parents responsibility to inform the school of any absence, failure to do so can raise safeguarding concerns.

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.

For further information please [click here](#) to visit the attendance page on our website.

Mrs Aikman
Assistant Headteacher for Pastoral Care

COVID-19 Absences - Latest Guidance

Please do not send your child into school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature 38* or above
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of the sense of taste or smell

If any of these symptoms are experienced your child must be taken for a PCR test at a local testing centre or obtain a PCR postal testing kit. Whilst you are awaiting your results we would be grateful if you could keep the school informed on a daily basis.

We would like to remind you of the importance of testing your child with Lateral Flow Tests (LFT's) **twice weekly**. If your child tests positive, please inform the school immediately by emailing admin@kwschool.co.uk. Testing kits will be coming home today with students. If they require further testing kits please come to reception to collect some. We will issue further testing kits approximately every 3 weeks.

Positive Lateral Flow Tests must be followed up with a PCR test at a local testing centre if your child has any of the symptoms listed above and they are required to self isolate.

If your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Test but has no symptoms, they are no longer required to have a PCR test but they are required to self isolate.

From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.

For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be **reported to NHS Test and Trace**.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFT's on consecutive days (24 hours apart) or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take a Lateral Flow Test or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

If a family member tests positive for COVID, students are required to take a daily Lateral Flow Test for 7 days prior to attending school.

Click here for further information from the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Mr Inns
School Business Manager

Sports News

There will be training this Saturday (15th January) for Year 9 boys football only, on the main football field between 9am and 10am. There will also be Rugby (run by parents) on the rugby pitch between 9am and 10am. Thank you very much to the parents that have volunteered to support with rugby. Mr Alexander



[Read more](#)

English Update



There has been lots going on in English. Our students have been provided with some amazing opportunities and experiences. Check them out below. Harpenden Creative Writing Competition We launched the 'Harpenden Creative Writing' Competition last week. Our students are being challenged to write an original story up to 1500 words about one of the following subjects: What initiatives should the ...

[Read more](#)

Spanish and Skiing Trips launching soon

Year 10 Spanish Trip - Oct 2022 The Spanish department is hoping to run a Spanish Immersion trip in October 2022 which will include Spanish lessons with the native monitores, adventure activities, visit to Water World Lloret, trip to medieval market and Spanish language team games. More details to follow! Mrs Kelly Head of Languages Ski Trip - March 2023 We ...



[Read more](#)

Herts Catering update - January 2022



We would like to congratulate Sampiseth, Chef Manager at Katherine Warrington School as a finalist at the Herts Catering Limited (HCL) awards for Chef Manager of the Year 2022. The prestigious awards dinner is held annually and celebrates catering across Hertfordshire. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating him for his hard work and dedication. We have ...

[Read more](#)

Term Dates 22/23

The Term Dates for the 2022/23 Academic Year have now been published on the website - [Click Here](#)

[Read more](#)



Trustee News

I am one of the newest members of the KWS trustee board, joining just as the Autumn term started. Given COVID restrictions I've yet to actually meet my fellow trustees in person and my visits to the school have been more limited than I would have liked. Despite this, the high energy and passion of everyone at KWS has been clearly visible and very impressive. From teachers enthusing about trips and plans for their departments, to the pupils whose numerous achievements light up the pages of the school newsletter.

As a parent of three who has lived in the Harpenden area for over 17 years, and with a working experience in the finance industry, I am keen to find out how I can help KWS the most. If I think back to my school life, I had no idea who the school trustees were or what on earth they did! There is a balance to be had between working behind the scenes and being visible and approachable. It's our responsibility as trustees to ensure KWS is working hard to fulfil its educational and pastoral promises to its students. But there is also room for us to contribute beyond our scripted role. I am excited to be part of the KWS journey.

Simon Laing
Trustee

KWS Vacancies

Head of English - [Click here](#) for more information

Head of Computing - [Click here](#) for more information

Forthcoming Vacancies

Cleaner

Learning Support Assistant

Teacher of Mandarin

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 or look out for updates on **Facebook @kwafkws**. If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 25th January - Year 8 option's evening online - More details to follow

Tuesday 25th January - Year 7 and 8 Maths challenge - 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Thursday 3rd February - Year 9 Maths challenge - 2.30pm - 4.00pm

Thursday 3rd and Wednesday 9th February - Year 9 Parents Evening - More details to follow

Tuesday 8th February - Year 8 careers workshop

Tuesday 8th February - Year 8 Options Based Careers Day Workshop

Thursday 10th February - KwAF Year 7 School Disco

Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February - Half term

Week commencing Monday 21st February - Spring reports issued

Thursday 3rd March and Monday 14th March - Year 8 Parents Evening - More details to follow
Monday 14th March to Friday 25th March - Final option choices entered via our online system
Friday 1st April - Term ends at 12.05pm

Notices

The HOP Careers Webinars Resume

Second covid Vaccine

KWAF Year 7 School disco

Non KWS Events / Publicity

The HOP Careers Webinars resume next week (Thursday 20th Jan) at the usual time of 4.30pm 5.30pm. Next week's theme is Careers in Graphic Design. If your child is interested in this career and/or is studying Art, Graphics, Design and Technology or related subjects this will be of benefit to them and is totally free. There will also be crossover into Marketing so students studying Business may also be interested.

Students can register now via HOP by [clicking here](#)



[Unsubscribe](#)



