



School Newsletter



KWS Newsletter - Issue 43 - 11.02.22

Heads up

Our consultation on a change to the timings of our school day has now closed. Thank you to everyone who participated. The changes, if supported by the majority of responses will have an impact on everyone so thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts and views. Consultations can lead to some misunderstandings. Views are sought and the balance of opinion is followed. However, that does mean that minority views will not be acted upon and that can disappoint and lead people to believe that their views were ignored. I intend to publish the results on our website, when collated so it is clear how the majority felt about the suggested changes. I do not intend to respond to individual comments submitted during the consultation.

Covid hit our Toastmasters event and the students trip to Cambridge University. The college had an outbreak so the event was online rather than in person. A disappointment but still worthwhile and enjoyable.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the national maths challenge. We eagerly await the results!

We had a few injuries after our Year 9 boys played in the rugby tournament at Saracens last week. However, several students made it into the Saracens Pathway Programme. Congratulations to Rhys E, Henry H, Oliver P-S, Michael Sm, Nathan T and Josh Tw.

There is an opportunity for our female rugby players to play at Saracens. Mr Alexander and Mr Ellershaw are keen to get a team together. If your daughter fancies a game, please ask them to contact those members of staff.

Last night saw our Year 7 disco, a night of music and merriment organised by KWAF. Great to be able to get back to these social events which really do play a large part in students social development. My attempt to lead the dancefloor with a reprise of the Blues Brothers dance routine to Aretha's R.E.S.P.E.C.T (2000 version) didn't quite have the impact I was anticipating!!!

Our Year 8's are in the middle of selecting their GCSE options and the Careers Day on Monday helped many of them identify subjects that will either assist in helping them towards their identified pathways or at least will keep all their options open. I was very proud of the engagement and questions the students showed and asked of the external presenter on the day.

Our Chinese New Year food celebration in the dining room was a great success. Despite preparing much more food than usual to meet an anticipated increase in demand, it still all sold out. A big thanks to our catering team for the extra effort they put in to make the lunchtime work. Staying with the food theme, thanks to all the students and parents who contributed cakes to the Eco Committee charity cake sale today.

We will be overseeing the car parking in school after half term with more vigour and repeating our request that anyone collecting students should do so approximately 10 minutes walk away from the school gates. This gives students exercise, reduces congestion and reduces car fumes around the school. There is a small and limited number of on-site parking permits if your child has a physical disability. They can be requested for a fixed period of time from the School Business Manager.

On a personal note Claire Robins has announced her intention to step down as the Head Teacher of Sir John Lawes, our neighbouring school, from September. She moves to a new role as CEO of the Scholars' Education Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Claire for the wise words, support and kindness she has shown to me and KWS as we have navigated the path to establish the school. The tremendous achievements Claire has instigated and overseen at SJL during her time are evident to see. She will be missed.

Finally, I'm sure several families will make use of the half term break by going away to foreign parts. Please read the messages for HCC regarding vaccinations and testing below.

Tony Smith
Headteacher

Ahead of February half-term, we'd like to say thank you once again for continuing to play your part

and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe from COVID-19.

If you're travelling abroad this half-term be sure to check and follow COVID-19 guidance for your country of travel and on re-entering the UK, you can find the latest travel guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Get vaccinated - vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

Young people aged 12-18 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) don't need to wait for a visit to their school or setting. You can find out more, including walk-in options for clinics for young people, and book at: **<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>**

- Half term COVID-19 'Relax and Vax' sessions for nervous teenagers

Five of the larger vaccination centres across Hertfordshire and west Essex are running 'Relax and Vax' sessions during half-term week aimed supporting 12 to 18-year-olds who are nervous about having their COVID-19 vaccine.

Specially trained staff will be on hand to help overcome worries like a fear of needles and answer any other concerns using simple and clinically effective relaxation techniques to help reduce tension and support them through the process. Children aged 12-15 need to be accompanied by a consenting parent or carer and just mention they're nervous on arrival so that the staff can make adjustments and they're given plenty of time and support.

You can find a list of participating venues and times at: **<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>**

People under 18 who have recently had COVID-19 must wait 12 weeks before having their vaccination.

- Test regularly – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest**
- Stay at home – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: **www.nhs.uk/get-tested**

If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email **info@hertshelp.net** or visit **www.hertshelp.net**

Please don't send children and young people back to school following half-term if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools, special schools and colleges – they need your support to help protect

our communities and have the least disruption to children’s learning and development as possible.

We hope you enjoy a healthy and safe half-term.

Hertfordshire County Council

Lost Property

At the end of each week, lost property will be cleared and any unnamed items will be disposed of. Please remember to name your child's items and remind them that if they lose anything to check the lost property table to collect it.

House Points

This weeks house points winners are **Franklin**. Congratulations!



[View All News](#)

Travel Plan - Zonal Map Reminder

As you will be aware from previous communications - KWS operates a travel plan and as part of this we encourage parents strongly to pick up/drop off a 5-10 minute walk away from school to help the enviroment and also encourage students to be active and healthy. The School Car Park should not be used for pick up/drop off unless ...



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Netball



Students have had a great half term of netball playing in fixtures against Sir John Lawes and STAGS. All students who have taken part worked well as a team and put in some great scores. Well done! Miss Moxham

[Read more](#)

KWAF Update - February 2022

We have a couple of exciting upcoming Events - Comedy @ KWS - Friday 18th March - [Click Here](#) for more Information regarding the Easter Fair - Saturday 19th March 10am to 4pm - **SAVE THE DATE** - more information to follow! Our February Newsletter is also attached.

[Read more](#)

In Aid of the £10k Gym Fundraiser
KWAF Presents...



Comedy @KWS

Friday, March 18 2022



Esther Manito



Julian Deane



Prince Abdi



MC - Joe Bor

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets - £25 per person including comedy and dinner. Available from - <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/kwaf-presents-comedy-kws>

Celebrating the Year of The Tiger



To celebrate the Year of the Tiger, KWS students have been making dumplings and paper cutting. Dumpling is a symbol of wealth for its shape like ancient Chinese gold money; paper cutting is a symbol of luck and happiness and parents in China put money into the red envelopes for their children. Thank you to Mrs Freeman for all her help in the food ...

[Read more](#)

The Eco-committee contribute to HCL Catering consultation

A group of 18 students across Years 7-9 took part in a focus group this week about the future of school food. It was fascinating for students to see how their opinion as 'customers' can impact on the strategy of a regional catering company. We had wide-ranging discussions about the importance of recyclable food packaging, food miles, the impact on ...



[Read more](#)

Maths Challenge



The Maths Department would like to say well done to the following students who achieved over 80% on the recent UKMT 25th Anniversary Challenge: Lucas C, Joel D, Henry G, John D, Marco R and Hannah W. Over 90 of KWS's Year 7 and 8 mathematicians took part in this challenge and we are very pleased with all of their ...

[Read more](#)

Year 8 Careers Workshop

On Tuesday 8th February, all Year 8 students were involved in a careers workshop run by SSG who provide activities for children and young people. During the session, students were asked to identify skills that were important for different jobs, as well as qualifications and experience required for certain careers. Different pathways into careers, for example apprenticeships, were explained to ...



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PE Update



It's been another action packed week on the sporting front. It started with our Year 8 Boy's rugby team competing in a tournament at Harpenden Rugby Club on Monday 7th February. They held their own in all games played and some impressive performances throughout. Callum S was voted the KWS player of the tournament. This was then followed by the ...

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KWS achieves Silver Modeshift Award

KWS has been awarded a Modeshift Stars Silver Awards for our commitment to sustainable travel. The school has an active travel plan and travel plan committee that works hard to ensure the way students travel to school reaches certain targets. We now have nearly 90% of students travelling by sustainable means.



[Read more](#)

Trustee News

I am a parent trustee at Katherine Warrington School and was lucky enough to be able to visit the school in person this half term to speak to my link teachers and to see some of the school in action. This is something that as we all know has not been possible over the past couple of years, due to the pandemic.

I spent two hours in the school. In that time, I witnessed pupils transitioning before the first lesson, between lessons and at break time. The atmosphere and general feel of the school was one of order and calm and this extended to the lessons that I visited. As a trustee, the intention for my visit was to check that the school is doing all it can to ensure that there is a clear plan and strategy for the funding the school gets for students who need additional help to achieve and succeed. In my visit I learnt more about the various initiatives that KWS has in place for students, from the summer school, small group Maths and English interventions, to a university scholar's programme! This did not stop me drilling down and asking many pertinent questions in an attempt to ensure that the offer was right, and I was given a full and honest account of life at KWS. There are lots of things that are going on behind the scenes for all year groups and it is encouraging that teachers are working hard to continue generating ideas that will help the school to move forward.

I am thankful to the students who were literally 'plucked' from the corridor to speak to me with no prior preparation, and to the students who I 'ambushed' during their maths and PRE lessons.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to KWS, and it is fair to say that I was impressed with the various initiatives in place, as well as the staff's commitment to them.

Donna Witter
KWS Parent and Trustee

KWS Vacancies

We have vacancies for the following:

Maths Teacher ECT
Science Teacher ECT

Deputy Head of Science
 Maths Teacher
 PE Teacher
 Computing Teacher ECT

All of our vacancies are advertised on our website. If you are interested in any of these vacancies, please **click here** to find out more information.

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

Wednesday 23rd February - Year 8 Theatre Trip and Workshop
 Thursday 24th February - Year 8 Reports sent home
 Tuesday 1st March - Midsummer nights Dream - Year 7 - 9.20 am - 10.50 am.
 Thursday 3rd March - Year 9 Geographers Climate Change workshop
 Thursday 3rd March - Year 8 Parents Evening (1/2) - 4.30 pm - 7.30 pm
 Monday 7th March - Year 8 Parents Evening (2/2) - 4.30 pm - 7.30 pm
 Tuesday 8th March - Year 8 Team Maths Challenge from 4 pm
 Wednesday 9th March - Year 9 and Year 7 Ollie Foundation talk
 Thursday 10th March - Year 8 Ollie Foundation talk
 Thursday 10th March - St George's sixth formers talk - Year 9
 Friday 18th March - KwAF Comedy night - 7 pm - 11 pm
 W/C - 14th March - Year 8 Options Selected (by students) - 2 weeks
 Saturday 19th March - KwAF Spring Fayre - 10 am - 4 pm

Notices

Year 8 Wicked Theatre Trip to London
 Technical and Vocational routes - Parent Survey
 Hop Careers Webinar - Child Care - Thursday 17th February - 4.30 pm
 Free mental health webinar for parents
 Book-ish Library Magazine
 Lost Property

Unifrog Login reminder

Thank you to those of you that have already logged on to the Unifrog careers platform that all of our students are using to research and plan their careers journey, as well as recording all of their careers 'interactions'.

For those of you that may have missed the opportunity to log on last time, we have requested that the parent login access code be made live again. I strongly advise that all parents/carers log on to the platform so that you are able to assist your child in their career journey.

Should you wish to register, please go to www.unifrog.org and follow the instructions for the parent sign up, using the code **KWRSpaents**

This code will expire on **15th February 2022**, so please use it prior to this date

Non KWS Events/Publicity

Herts Children's Wellbeing Practice Service

The Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Team is a new service offer for 2022.

The aim of the HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners is to ensure that children and young people can easily access evidence-based support, early in the development of the problem through workshops, groups and 1-1 interventions. Referrals are accepted from professionals, parents and adolescents for children and young people aged 5-19 who meet the service criteria. Children/young people need to be registered with a GP in Hertfordshire or attend an education establishment in Hertfordshire.

More information on the CWP service can be found here:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/cwp-service>

You can book a place onto a workshop via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787) at the following link (you do not need to have made a referral to access the workshops):

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>

Hertfordshire Careers Hub

Our school is part of the Hertfordshire Careers Hub and one of their strategic action is to enhance the level of technical and vocational routes available to young people in the county. They have asked, to mark National Apprenticeships week, that we share this survey link to complete to help you gauge your thoughts, as a key influencer, about the credibility of technical and vocational routes for your child.

Some of you may remember completing this survey in previous years. If this is the case, can we ask you re-complete it as there are a few additional/amended questions.

The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and will remain anonymous. The survey will remain open until the Easter Holidays.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/katherine-warrington-22>

Cognitive Science for Parents

Have you watched your child struggle with schoolwork? Would you like to know how best to help your child with learning? Patrice Bain (@PatriceBain1), teacher and parent, has worked with cognitive scientists for over 15 years in identifying principles and strategies that increase learning and decrease anxiety

Title: Empowering the Teaching Triangle: Student, Parent, and Teacher.

Date & Time: Tuesday, 15th February, 5.30 pm, online

Link to register: <https://bit.ly/Parents-Webinar-Learning>



Children and Air Pollution

This is an exciting opportunity to listen to Dr Abigail Whitehouse talk about the effects of air pollution on children.

We are expecting this evening to be very popular and hopefully appealing to both children and their parents.

Tickets are available on the Society website, www.harpendensociety.org

Children and air pollution. What should I worry about? And what can I do?



Guest Speaker Dr. Abigail Whitehouse

Academic Clinical Lecturer in the Queen Mary,(London),University
Centre for Genomics and Child Health.

will discuss the effects of air pollution on children, present the latest
research, and advise on how we can all act to improve the air we breathe.

A 45 minute presentation followed by 45 minute Q&A

Public Meeting

7.30pm start Thursday
April 21

Katherine Warington
School

Book your seat now via
the Society web site

MEETING ORGANISED BY



www.harpendensociety.org

Saracens V Bristol Bears

All parents, all age groups and families are welcome. By booking through the link using the code below, seats will be allocated together in the stadium. You will be responsible for making your own way to and from the stadium.

There are some specific club/group activities planned to take place in the stand during the day so Saracens are encouraging everyone to come dressed in their club or school kit colours and to arrive as the show starts from 1.30pm.

Booking instructions:

1. Go to <https://events.saracens.com/content> and enter your special code WARINGTON22 in the Promotion Code box, then click OK:
2. You will be taken to your club's page for the Showdown 2. Click View to access the allocation:
3. Select the number of tickets required for each tariff / price category, then click Add to Cart.
4. You will be prompted to log into your online account to proceed to the payment page.





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