



# School Newsletter



## **KWS Newsletter - Issue 50 - 10.6.22**

### **Heads up**

Back to school for the final half term of this academic year and we've hit the ground running. Fantastic feedback from students, staff and random members of the public for our Year 7 theatre trip into London yesterday to see Hamilton and participate in associated workshops. It is always good to hear that students thoroughly enjoyed participating in new things. It's also a delight to receive emails from members of the public who were in the same audience but not connected to the school commenting on how well behaved our students were and I quote 'a real credit to your school'. Thank you again to our Performing Arts staff for accessing and organising the experience. While we are on the topic of adults thanking people, I'd like to extend my thanks to those parents/carers who have followed our request not to come onto the school site to drop off students unless they have a permit or pick up in the adjacent roads. As the school grows this becomes more important. It also has an impact on our wish to be good neighbours which in turn impacts on applications to develop the school site. We have recently submitted an application for planning permission to turn the playing pitch adjacent to the sports centre into a 3G all weather pitch. We anticipate a planning decision over the summer with the hope that construction work can start before the end of the calendar year.

This is the time of year when students revise for and sit exams. We have completed sessions in

assembly and form time, informing students of the best methods to revise and how to manage the stress around exams. These are also available for parents/carers to access so that you can support your child through this period.

**Revision Guide - Step 1**

**Revision Guide - Step 2**

**Revision Guide - Step 3**

Please note, next week Period 7 becomes in-class revision for 30 minutes at the end of each day.

A reminder to search out your child's school photo from their school bag. We completed both individual and whole school photos in the final week before half-term. Those individual photos should have been given to your child for you to decide if you would like to purchase.

When we were planning the school days at KWS, we wanted to end the week with a celebration assembly, recognising the achievements of individuals or groups of students across the range of subjects and extra curricular activities each week. A mixture of Covid and building constraints meant that we haven't had the ability to celebrate with students all in one area at the same time.

Today was the first celebration assembly that met our initial vision. Staff from all subject areas and year groups spoke about successes in the week from students, students thanked each other for kind deeds and we closed with an update on House achievements and House points. It was joyous to behold and the first of many to come.

**Tony Smith**  
**Head Teacher**

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## **Attendance Review**

As a school, we place great importance on attendance and expect that all our students will achieve an attendance level of at least 96% each academic year.

It is through good attendance that pupils maximise their full potential, enhancing their life chances for the future. Missing school means missing out on learning and this can have an impact on a child's development and attainment.

There is a strong statistical link between attendance and attainment. Studies show that students who have patterns of poor school attendance could fail to achieve their full potential and this can have a detrimental impact on their GCSE results.

Parents have the legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually.

We review attendance regularly and have an attendance procedure we follow based on each student's attendance percentage. The process begins once a student reaches less than 96% attendance. We are keen to work with parents to encourage improved attendance. The attached attendance leaflet provides important information regarding our attendance procedure. **KWS**

## **Attendance Leaflet 2021-22.pdf**

We strongly urge parents/carers to avoid booking holidays during term time. We appreciate there may be exceptional circumstances behind a request for leave. If this is the case, you should give a detailed explanation as to why it is necessary for you to take your child out of school by completing this form <https://kwschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Request-for-Absence.pdf> and send it to [absence@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@kwschool.co.uk) where it will be forwarded to Mr Smith for his consideration.

We also like to recognise students who have excellent attendance as well as those that have strived to increase their attendance by sending letters of congratulations to students and parents. Each week in assembly, an award is given to the form group who has the best attendance.

Students who attain 100% attendance each term have their names entered into a prize draw which will take place at the end of the year.

By working together we can help students to reach their full potential and make the most of the opportunities school has to offer.

If you feel you would like support with your child's attendance or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## **Attendance Procedures Reminder**

### **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](mailto: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 and tutor group
- Please give as much detail as possible for the reason of absence avoiding using terms such as 'unwell' or 'under the weather'
- If you fail to give us a reason for your child's absence, this may be referred to our safeguarding team


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.

**OUR AIM IS AN OVERALL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF**

**96%**

**BUT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU?**

1. 90% attendance = 1/2 day missed every week totalling to 4 whole weeks and 114 lessons missed at school.
2. 85% attendance = 6 weeks and 174 lessons missed of school a year.
3. 80% attendance = 8 weeks and 228 lessons missed of school a year.
4. Research suggests that a drop to 90% can lead to a whole GCSE grade drop in achievement.



**IT IS YOUR FUTURE, COME TO SCHOOL AND FULFIL YOUR POTENTIAL**

**Grace Aikman**  
*Assistant Headteacher for Pastoral Care*

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## House Points

This week's house point winners are **Keller**. Congratulations!



[View All News](#)



# KWS End of Year Exams

Students in Years 7 – 9 will be sitting end of year exams during our exam week Monday 20th June – Friday 24th June. These exams are an opportunity; to consolidate knowledge gained throughout the year, practise revision skills, to identify gaps in learning, to show progress in subjects and to experience sitting exams in large groups. Exam week timetables, ...



[Read more](#)

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## Sports Update



Well done to all those that competed in this week's athletics fixture. The official results haven't come back yet, however apparently a few Personal Best's were smashed in the process - notably Nathan T in the triple jump and Andrea C in the shot put. We look forward to the upcoming fixtures next week. Special mention also to the students ...

[Read more](#)

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## Trustee News

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed the half-term and the Jubilee Celebrations. It's hard to believe that the last half of our Summer term is already here.

We are delighted to welcome two new trustees to the Trust Board. Dani Cook and Jamie Washburn bring a strong set of skills that will help to support KWS as it continues to grow and thrive. In their own words:

Dani: I have lived in Harpenden for 10 years and have a child at KWS. This is an exciting opportunity to learn from the amazing students and staff at KWS and to use the business strengths I have built over the years to support my community. I am looking forward to getting to know the school better and can't wait to get started.

Jamie: I'm really excited to be starting my new role as trustee at KWS. I live in Wheathampstead

and have a child due to start in September. After 15 years in various operational roles, I look forward to learning new skills from both the teaching and trustee teams at KWS and hopefully using my experiences to help the school move forward in this very exciting time. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months.

***Jenny Howarth - Chair of Trust Board***

## **KWS Vacancies**

Forthcoming vacancies:

Maternity Cover Science Teacher - Full time

## **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!

## **Upcoming Events**

Tuesday 14th June - 2nd Round of UK Maths Challenge

W/C 20th June - Exams Weeks (all years)

Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th June - All Years Activity Week

Thursday 30th June - Chelsea's Story Production for Year 9

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd July - Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Tuesday 5th July - New Year 7 Parents Evening

## **Notices**

'Good News' Celebration Assembly

Parents/Carers Survey

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## **Non KWS Events and Publicity**



by arrangement with  
Fiery Angel Limited

**Adapted by Patrick Barlow**

From the novel by John Buchan, from  
the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Licensed by ITV Global Entertainment  
Limited and an original concept by  
Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

# The 39 Steps

Hitchcock meets hilarious!

directed by  
Richard Pike

**16th & 17th June 8pm**

**18th June 3pm**

Katherine Warrington School,  
Lower Luton Road, Harpenden AL5 5FH

**Tickets £10**

Call **01582 620269**, available from **Manor Pharmacy**

or **www.hsplayers.org.uk**



This amateur production of "The 39 Steps" is presented in arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)

