



# School Newsletter



## KWS Newsletter - Issue 55 - 30.9.22

### Heads up

As the memories and the weather fade away from the summer holiday, we focus on school and our achievements so far.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents involved with KWAF who gave up time on a Saturday to host our Open Day. It's a bit like inviting lots of people to come and have a look around your new house but on a grand scale; a mixture of trepidation tinged with the excitement of being able to show off all that you have worked to achieve. It was a very successful day that continued into the late afternoon as students, staff and parents enjoyed refreshments in the courtyard with our young musicians in our choir and orchestra performing.

Following on from this, we invite prospective families to come and see the school during a working day. The tours are now underway, presenting a further opportunity for families to chat to our students and see lessons in action.

Last week we hosted the District Cross Country event. With students from 12 secondary schools involved from Harpenden and St Albans, home advantage worked well for our students. They performed commendably. Several of us enjoyed the look on our guests' faces when they saw the hill they were required to run up!

We are gearing up to our first foreign trip in a few weeks time, with 60 Year 10 GCSE foreign language students heading off to Spain. They will taste the local cuisine, chat in Spanish as well as take in the culture. Rumour has it that a trip to the Nou Camp is on the itinerary. Closer to home but equally as enticing is the Year 9 and 10 performing arts trip to see *An Inspector Calls* in Milton Keynes on Friday evening; a true classic and perennial favourite of English departments throughout the land. It may have aged with its language and social customs but the themes remain as relevant today as when J.B. Priestley wrote it 70 years ago.

To consolidate the foreign food theme in Modern Foreign Languages, there is a 'language cook off' competition for all students to enter. Cook a Spanish or a Chinese meal, take a photo and send it into our language department. Student cooking only - no help please!

We asked our students what attributes they hope to have developed by the time they leave KWS. The answers formed the acronym C.R.E.A.T.I.V.E which stands for Collaborative; Resilient; Empathetic; Ambitious; Tolerant; Independent; Versatile and Engaged. These attributes, when seen, are now rewarded during lessons and across the wider school day with recipients acknowledged and recognised at our end of the week whole school achievement assembly. This development of our students' character is an essential part of the wider education responsibility of schools and home. As part of this we have redistributed the Home/School agreement to all year groups to remind students and families of our expectations.

Last week we wished our Jewish students and families a good Rosh Hashanah. Next month we look forward to both Black History Month and Diwali.

KWAF have started the year well raising over £1,700 from the Open Day afternoon events. This is a great start to their fundraising efforts for this year to support the Science, Performing Arts and Art faculties.

As you will hopefully be aware from the calendar, we have our first **KWAF Fireworks night** coming up on the 4th November and tickets are now on sale - <https://kws.co.uk/event/kwaf-fireworks-night>. There's an early bird 10% discount for tickets

purchased by 9 October.

**Founders' Wall:** Be part of KWS History. Bricks for the Founders' Wall are now available for purchase on iPayImpact for £30 each. There is a limited number available, so act soon to secure your place. Once the wall is full there will be no further bricks available for purchase.



**Tony Smith**  
**Headteacher**

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### House Points

The house point winners this week are **Tesla**. **Congratulations!**



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### Attendance Review & Absence Reporting Procedures

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 students 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 a 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. This **attendance leaflet** provides important information regarding our attendance procedure.

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](#) and sending it to [absence@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:absence@kwschool.co.uk) where it will be forwarded to Mr Smith for his consideration. The form can be accessed from the website attendance page.

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 every half term have their name entered into a prize draw which takes place at the end of the year. First prize in the summer of 2022 was a pair of Apple AirPods, with the runners up receiving Love to Shop vouchers for £100 and £50 respectively. By working together we can help students 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. Since opening in September 2019, we have supported a number of students whose circumstances, special educational needs or mental health has impacted their attendance. We like to work with children and families on an individualised basis and have had success in supporting a number of students to improve their attendance in challenging circumstances.

### 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 contact the school to inform us of 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

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### KWS Uniform Bank

Thank you so much to everyone who has so far contributed to our KWS Uniform Bank. I am pleased to say that we are now in a position to start distributing items from our bank.

If you would like to be provided with some uniform from the bank please fill in the form [here](#). We understand that the cost of living crisis is hitting lots of KWS families hard and if you are in need of any sort of financial assistance please see this [page](#) on the KWS website.

We will continue to take donations of any outgrown uniform throughout the year - please contact [z.anderson@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:z.anderson@kwschool.co.uk) for more information or to organise a drop off of items.

[View All News](#)

### Eco-Garden Update

As we enter the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' here are a few pictures from the KWS Eco-Garden. Our teams of student gardeners are, quite rightly, very proud of all their hard work. Mrs Jacquinot

[Read more](#)



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## Sports Update



Another good afternoon of racing at cross country on Thursday. Thomas C in Year 7 continues to impress, finishing 5th and Lucy W in Year 8 finished 7th in her race. Special mention to Henry G too for going above and beyond! A reminder that rugby training will continue from 9am - 10am at school. All are welcome. Mr Alexander

[Read more](#)

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## Languages day Monday 26th September

We enjoyed celebrating the rich diversity of the different languages spoken by staff and students at KWS this week. Particular thanks to Rayan P, Syan B, Veer Sher S, Matilde F-E, Ferdinand V, Mohammed D and Ayaan M who spoke to us in assemblies about their various traditions and cultures. We also have a Language 'cook off' competition this ...

[Read more](#)



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## Times Tables Rockstars



Well done to all of our Year 7 & Year 8 TT Rockstars who have started their house competitions this month. We have held two weekly battles with a prestigious amount of house points up for grabs - 50 points for 3rd place, 75 for 2nd and a huge 100 points for 1st place. Last week's standings were: 1st ...

[Read more](#)

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### KWS Vacancies

Teacher of Science - Full/part-time

Finance Assistant - Full time apprentice or part-time position (3 days per week for somebody with experience)

Office Assistant - Full time apprentice or part-time position (3 days per week for somebody with experience)

### Katherine Warington Association of Friends (KWAF)

KWAF have started the year well raising over £1,700 from the Open Day afternoon events. This is a great start to their fundraising efforts for this year to support the Science, Performing Arts and Art

faculties.

As you will hopefully be aware from the calendar, we have our first **KWAF Fireworks night** coming up on the 4th November and tickets are now on sale - <https://kw-arts.co.uk/event/kwaf-fireworks-night>. There's an early bird 10% discount for tickets purchased by 9 October.

**Founders' Wall:** Be part of KWS History. Bricks for the Founders' Wall are now available for purchase on iPayImpact for £30 each. There is a limited number available, so act soon to secure your place. Once the wall is full there will be no further bricks available for purchase.

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

Friday 30th September - INSET day - No students in school  
Friday 30th September - Year 9 and 10 Drama Students - An Inspector Calls Evening Show  
Monday 3rd October - Cyber Choices talk - Year 9 - 8:50am - 9:50am  
Tuesday 4th October - Cyber Choices talk - Year 7 - 8:50am - 9:50am  
Tuesday 4th October - Patient Journey Careers Trip (Selected Year 9 Students)  
Wednesday 5th October - Cyber Choices talk - Year 10 - 8:50am - 9:50am  
Thursday 6th October - Cyber Choices talk - Year 8 - 8:50am - 9:50am  
Thursday 13th - Monday 17th October - Year 10 Spanish Trip


### Notices

Students Travelling on the E174 or 811 - Changes Made  
GOOD NEWS  
KWS Uniform Bank  
Careers in Event Planning  
Lost Property

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### Non KWS Events/Publicity

#### Harpenden Plus



**Harpenden Plus**  
PARTNERSHIP  
Harpenden - Kimpton - Redbourn - Wheathampstead  
Family Links

**Understanding your teenager**

A Free 4 week course for parents and carers of children in years 7,8,9,10 attending Katherine Warington School

The course will give you the opportunity to learn about:

- Being the parent of a teenager - the role of the parent and how to respond to difficult feelings
- Understanding your teenager - development, parenting styles, praise and criticism
- Communicating with your teenager - talking and listening, handling difficult situations
- Managing conflict with your teenager - rules and boundaries, problem solving

**Wednesdays 18th, 23rd and 30th of November, 14th of December**  
9.30 - 12 at Katherine Warington School

To register your interest please email [dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dmarsden@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk), you will be sent a booking form which needs to be completed and returned to confirm your place on the course

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### INVESTIN - Stem and Medicine Weekend Experiences



## Public Health Nursing Newsletter



**Hi everyone!**

We hope you had a relaxing summer break! We are looking forward to supporting children and young people throughout the new school term.

Please see our message page, with lots of advice and support on your child's emotional health, returning to school and more.

<http://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/>

**Want to contact us?**

Our school nurse duty number is: 0300 123 7572 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Our website has information about our services: [www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing](http://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing)

**HEALTH TEENS**

[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk)

A great website, with information and advice for young people aged 11-16.

**Referrals**

We offer advice and support to children and young people attending Hertfordshire mainstream schools, their parents/carers and networks.

The following areas are suitable topics which we can help with:

- Advice and information for general health issues
- Low level emotional and mental health issues, including self-esteem, anxiety, low mood, anger
- Sleep
- Healthy eating and diet management
- Menstrual health & contraception

For more information please contact our school nurse duty line, or find further professional information on the HCT website with this link: <http://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/>

**Topic of the Term: Sleep**

Sleep is especially important and helps development.

Lack of sleep can lead to reduced concentration, increased behaviour difficulties and irritability.

Did you know that young people need around 8-9 hours sleep at night?

**Tips for better sleep:**

- Plenty of fresh air and exercise during the day
- Avoid electronics and devices at least one hour before bed
- A relaxing activity before bed, such as reading and listening to calming music
- Have a good routine at bedtime and keep regular sleep and wake times.

Have a look at our website for more great advice: [www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk)

**Relaxation Exercise**

Try out this 3,2,1,2 exercise to help and relaxation in a difficult situation:

Exaggerated (3), 2 (2), 1 (1)

3: Inhale through the nose for 3 seconds and exhale through the mouth for 3 seconds.

2: Inhale through the nose for 2 seconds and exhale through the mouth for 2 seconds.

1: Inhale through the nose for 1 second and exhale through the mouth for 1 second.

2: Inhale through the nose for 2 seconds and exhale through the mouth for 2 seconds.

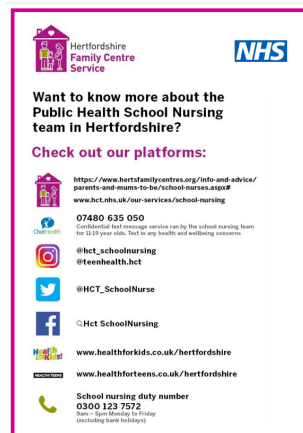
**Did you know?**

School nursing is also on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter!

We post up to date information, support and advice available for young people and parents.

Follow us!

[@hct\\_schoolnursing](https://www.instagram.com/hct_schoolnursing)  
[hct.health.hct](https://www.facebook.com/hct.health.hct)  
[@HCT\\_SchoolNurse](https://twitter.com/HCT_SchoolNurse)  
[Hct SchoolNursing](https://www.facebook.com/HctSchoolNursing)



**Want to know more about the Public Health School Nursing team in Hertfordshire?**

**Check out our platforms:**

<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx>

[www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing](http://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing)

**07480 635 050**  
Confidential text message service run by the school nursing team for 9-18 year olds. Text to any health and wellbeing concerns

[@hct\\_schoolnursing](https://www.instagram.com/hct_schoolnursing)  
[@teenhealth.hct](https://www.facebook.com/teenhealth.hct)  
[@HCT\\_SchoolNurse](https://twitter.com/HCT_SchoolNurse)  
[Hct SchoolNursing](https://www.facebook.com/HctSchoolNursing)

[www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire)

[www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire)

**School nursing duty number 0300 123 7572**  
Mon - Sun 9am-5pm 11-5pm (excluding bank holidays)

## Parent and Carer experiences of NHS Services

Healthwatch Hertfordshire is supporting the local NHS by hearing from parents and carers about their experiences of accessing their GP practice on behalf of their child or the young person they care for. They have launched an online survey: <https://bit.ly/ParentsCarersGPAccess>

The results of this survey will be fed back to the NHS to improve GP services and to ensure parents and carers can access their GP practice with greater ease and confidence.

The closing date is the 3rd of October.

## Alban TSH Newsletter

All of the Alban TSH Newsletter can be found by [clicking here](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
 Connecting all primary schools across our region  
 This event is aimed at supporting all teachers in a primary setting

**PRIMARY CONFERENCE  
 IN THE ZONE  
 27th January 2023**

Keynote: Andrew Horwood  
 Keynote: Catherine Peacock

Curriculum Zone  
 SEND Zone  
 Innovation Zone

Workshop Zones for EYF5 to KS2  
 08.30-10.00 at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield  
 Full ticket price: £90 for one delegate or £160 for two delegates  
 BOOK HERE: <https://bit.ly/3a28818>

Early Bird Offer:  
 £60 for one delegate or  
 £100 for two delegates

also featuring Curriculum Hubs: SP, MFL, Maths, Computing and English Hubs

**Please note change of date from 6th October 2022 to 27th January 2023**

**ALBAN EDUCATION EXPERTS**



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