



# School Newsletter



## **KWS Newsletter - Issue 73 - 21.7.23**

### **Heads Up**

If my calculations are correct, this is the 73rd newsletter for KWS and therefore the 73rd time I have had an opportunity to write a brief piece to address the achievements and concerns connected to the school. Looking back there are a whole range of topics I've covered, stretching from the buses that collected our current Year 10 students to take them to the University of Herts Law Court building (which acted as our school base for a few weeks when they joined us in Year 7) to abandoning our first school trip to Bushcraft due to monsoon style floods to Covid to ..... well, it's has been a journey for students, for staff and for parents.

My journey started with a secondment from Roundwood Park to help the three secondary schools in Harpenden set up and establish a fourth secondary school. At some point I was lucky enough to be appointed Headteacher. I spent my first year of headship dividing my time between HCC meetings, policy reviews, construction meetings (after a spell at the High Court in London as the development was challenged through the court system) and recruiting staff. As the school opening was delayed due to the legal challenge, I was also teaching English to Year 7s, being a Business Manager and working at another new school in North London. It was a stretch. Added to that, I was constantly being told that the school would either never be built or the build would be delayed by several years by any member of the public who wanted to voice an opinion. I was interviewed several times on radio with the angle of the story being a negative narrative about construction delays, no demand

for the school and massive traffic congestion issues. When the school opened I asked the radio station to come and cover the 'good news' story. They never replied to that request.

So now I sit in the Head's office writing my final Heads Up. The school is built but additional exciting developments are under way (3G pitch, more solar panels, developing the 6th form area); the school is for the third year over subscribed with students who have selected KWS as their first preference; KWS is fully staffed in the face of specialist staff shortages throughout secondary education; staff surveys put us significantly ahead of like for like schools nationally on wellbeing, career progression, work satisfaction and more. It has not been plain sailing and I have certainly not made correct decisions on every aspect and every challenge but I believe we get far more right than wrong and when we get it wrong we try to correct it with humility and honesty.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have had the support of fantastic parents, staff and Trustees as well as the camaraderie and cooperation of the other headteachers in Harpenden. I am very privileged to end my teaching career with the opportunity to oversee the final chapter in the development of KWS, opening our 6th form. I fully expect to see the majority of our Year 11 students take advantage of our A level and BTEC courses as we proudly join the Harpenden 6th form consortium with the other secondary schools. Our offering will be academic with the continued KWS ethos of student wellbeing at the fore as our students manage the transition from early adulthood to mature citizens.

Thank you for the kindness and support over the years.

**Tony Smith**  
**Founding Headteacher**  
**Katherine Warrington School**

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### **Uniform Reminders**

- Students return to school in full winter uniform with Blazers & Ties. Our full winter uniform guidelines can be found on the website - <https://kwschool.co.uk/uniform/>
  - The old PE Hoodie with a hood will no longer be allowed in school from September 2023 and this has been replaced with the new mid-layer that is available from Beats School Uniforms or Smarty Schoolwear.
  - Students will be allowed to wear PE kits to school on the days they have PE or have a P7/Lunchtime club requiring PE kit as they have done this year. You may wish to take this into consideration if you are replacing uniform items over the Summer Holidays.
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The KWS DT department is very excited to be introducing GCSE Textiles as a subject starting in September. One of our subject goals is to be as sustainable as possible when preparing for and completing projects. Therefore DT are asking for donations of spare materials (cotton, wool, polyester, silk etc.), haberdashery supplies (buttons, zips, trims etc.) and any other unused textile items that may be headed for the bin (mannequins, clothing that can be cut up). Before throwing

these items away this summer, please consider saving any unwanted textile items and donating them to the DT department upon our return in September. Thank you for any contributions you can make to ensure the DT department runs sustainably and can continue to offer a well rounded and enjoyable curriculum.

## Miss Hammond.

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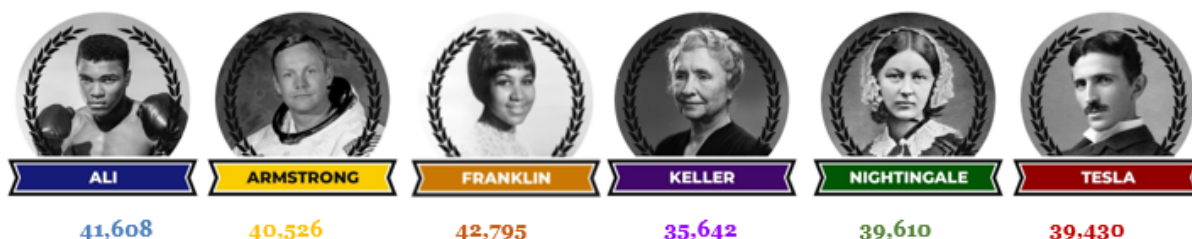
### Wheathampstead Parish Council Youth Volunteer Award

The brand new Wheathampstead Parish Council Youth Volunteer of the Year Coronation Cup went jointly to Summer, Harvey & Nicole Costin for their tireless hard work and dedication supporting village events, local groups & people in need. Annie Brewster was delighted to present the cup to them all. They also received a generous donation of £100 from an anonymous village resident. Many congratulations to them all! They are pictured here with our Parish Clerk, Julia Warren. The children were given a smaller silver replica of the larger trophy to keep!

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### House Points

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



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## Sports Day(s) Results

As briefly mentioned in our last newsletter, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June saw the whole school community participate in our KWS Sports Day(s), with everyone trying to amass points for their House. Students on the whole performed brilliantly and were a credit to their House and our school. There were a total of 15 events to score points on, ...

[Read more](#)



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## Year 9 Mandarin Presentations



Year 9 Mandarin students present their posters in Mandarin, introducing the city of Xi'an, they gave the presentation completely in Mandarin. Miss Hu

[Read more](#)

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## Holocaust Speaker 17th July 2023

After learning about the Holocaust this term in History, Year 8 students were privileged to be visited by a speaker from the Holocaust Educational Trust. Due to the Holocaust being around eighty years ago we are not able to hear from survivors any more. However, a new generation of speakers are now sharing the stories of their families. On Monday ...

[Read more](#)



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## Safety Email



Dear Parents and Carers, Please see below for summer safety information from our Safeguarding Team. Attached here is a safety leaflet sent on behalf of our emergency services. Reminders about fire safety and water safety can only be beneficial to the young people in our care. Please find a reminder about the dangers of vaping and a helpful resource to ...

[Read more](#)

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## Trustee News

Our inaugural parent/carer elected Trustees Donna Witter and Neal Tobin will shortly come to the end of their four year term. We are extremely grateful for the contributions Donna and Neal have made to KWS throughout the first few years and would like thank them both for all their hard work. We will open the process to elect two new parent/carer elected trustees in September. We will write to you further about this when we return to school, but do have a think over the holiday about whether you would like to be involved. We are committed to building a board which is diverse and which reflects our school community.

As the term draws to a close the Trustees would like to wish all our students, staff and families a wonderful summer. You have worked so hard all year and it is time for a well deserved break! Have fun, be active and healthy and come back in September ready for another fantastic year at KWS.

## KWS Vacancies

Learning Support Assistant

## Katherine Warrington 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!

If you have any requests regarding the KWAF second-hand uniform, please email [uniform.kwaf@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:uniform.kwaf@kwschool.co.uk) and not the main KWAF email.

## Upcoming Events

Monday 21st August - Wednesday 23rd August - Summer School (New Year 7s)

Friday 1st September - INSET DAY - NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Monday 4th September - INSET DAY - NOS STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 Start

Wednesday 6th September - Year 8 - 11 Start

Monday 18th September - HPV Immunisations

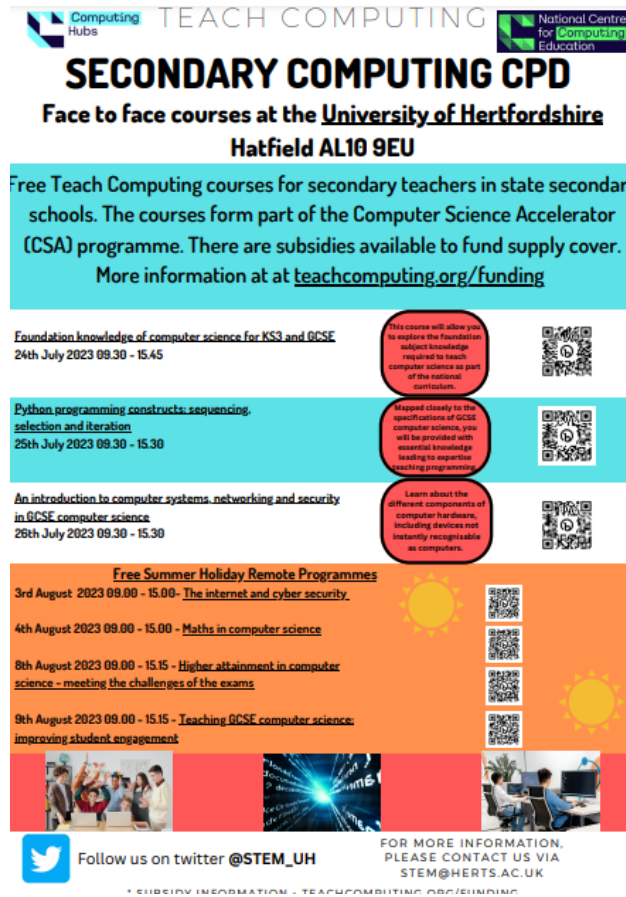
Friday 15th September - Early Finish 12.05 for Open day

Saturday 16th September - OPEN DAY

## Notices

## Non KWS Events/Publicity

### Secondary Computing CPD



**TEACH COMPUTING** National Centre for Computing Education

## SECONDARY COMPUTING CPD

Face to face courses at the **University of Hertfordshire**  
Hatfield AL10 9EU

Free Teach Computing courses for secondary teachers in state secondary schools. The courses form part of the Computer Science Accelerator (CSA) programme. There are subsidies available to fund supply cover. More information at [teachcomputing.org/funding](https://teachcomputing.org/funding)

**Foundation knowledge of computer science for KS3 and GCSE**  
24th July 2023 09.30 - 15.45

**Python programming constructs: sequencing, selection and iteration**  
25th July 2023 09.30 - 15.30

**An introduction to computer systems, networking and security in GCSE computer science**  
26th July 2023 09.30 - 15.30

**Free Summer Holiday Remote Programmes**

- 3rd August 2023 09.00 - 15.00 - **The internet and cyber security**
- 4th August 2023 09.00 - 15.00 - **Maths in computer science**
- 8th August 2023 09.00 - 15.15 - **Higher attainment in computer science - meeting the challenges of the exams**
- 9th August 2023 09.00 - 15.15 - **Teaching GCSE computer science: improving student engagement**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US VIA [@STEM\\_UH](https://twitter.com/STEM_UH) OR [STEM@HERTS.AC.UK](mailto:STEM@HERTS.AC.UK)

\* SUBSIDY INFORMATION - [TEACHCOMPUTING.ORG/FUNDING](https://teachcomputing.org/funding)

### Bruce's Doggy Day Care



**Bruce's**  
Unleashing happiness

**Welcome to  
Bruce's Doggy Day Care  
Battlers Green Farm,  
Radlett**

**Opening  
August 2023**

**Bruce's**  
Unleashing happiness

## Helping You Make Healthy Habits As A Family

Come along to our fun & free online healthy lifestyle courses!



Healthy Eating Tips



Making Healthy Habits at Home



Fun Online Activities for the Whole Family



BeeZee Live

Monday	5-8's 5:30pm	9-12's 6:30pm
Tuesday	5-8's No Session	9-12's 6:30pm
Wednesday	5-8's 6:30pm	9-12's 5:30pm

12-week BeeZee families courses starting  
18th September 2023!

Sign up for your family's FREE place at  
[beezeebodies.com/families](http://beezeebodies.com/families)



beezee  
bodies

[www.beezeebodies.com/families](http://www.beezeebodies.com/families)

03308 186308



Hertfordshire

## What's on at HENRY this Autumn

We will have free crèche facilities available.  
All programmes start w/c 25th September,  
and will run for 8 weeks with a break for  
October half term.

### Tuesdays

26th September, Broadwater Family Centre,  
Stevenage.  
12.30-2.30pm

### Wednesdays

27th September, Online 12.30-1.30pm or  
5.30-6.30pm

### Thursdays

28th September, South Oxhey Family  
Centre, Watford.  
10-12pm

To register or find out  
more about our services  
contact us on  
01707 248648 or  
[info@beezeebodies.co.uk](mailto:info@beezeebodies.co.uk)



Henry, Stevenage, Broadwater Centre



## BSL Level 1 Course



### BSL Level 1 young persons course.

The BSL Centre will be running BSL level 1 courses for ages 9-13 year olds and 14-17 year olds.

This will be on Mondays 4.30pm – 6.30pm starting 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024\*

The total cost is £440 which includes exams for the Level 1 qualification.  
Payment plans are available.

To enrol or for additional information please email [BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk](mailto:BSL@heathlands.herts.sch.uk) .  
Website: [www.heathlands.herts.co.uk](http://www.heathlands.herts.co.uk)



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\*Term time only







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