



# School Newsletter



## **KWS Newsletter - Issue 74 - 8.9.23**

### **Heads up**

First and foremost a very warm welcome back to KWS after the summer break. This is an interim newsletter as our main newsletter is fortnightly but we wanted to reach out early with some key messages.

I am extremely excited and proud to be taking on the role of Acting Headteacher for this academic year. KWS is a fantastic school with amazing students and staff. The opportunity to take on the role of leading the school was too good to miss.

Our summer school, to help Year 6 students as they join us for Year 7, was a great success and really helped make the start of the full school term a less anxious time for everyone. Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their secondary school education; they are polite, looking smart and making lots of new friends along the way.

We welcomed back all students, with assemblies for each year group, with the theme of seizing opportunities. KWS gives every student a chance at a transformative educational experience whilst offering a vast range of extracurricular activities and clubs. But opportunities, whilst offered, have to be actively taken. I challenged all students to use the fresh start of a new academic year to make the most of the opportunities afforded to them.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the students in getting them ready to learn for the start of this year. My staff and I have been hugely impressed with the way

students are demonstrating the core values of being ready, being respectful and taking responsibility. Our expectations are set high as we know that the students are more than capable of reaching them.

All in all a great first week here at KWS. A reminder that school finishes early on Friday 15th September as we prepare the school for our open day on Saturday 16th September.

**David Martin**  
**Headteacher**

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## **Behaviour Policy**

Dear families,

Please find attached the updated behaviour policy for this academic year. As a reminder of the 'New Academic Year and Expectations' letter which was sent out by Mr. Martin at the end of the last academic year, there are some small changes which will help ensure that every student is Ready, by being on time to school and in the correct school uniform, setting them up for success every day. As mentioned in the letter, the importance of partnership is key. With school and home working closely together, great learning will follow and every student is given the platform to reach their undoubted potential.

The key updates are: KWS has transitioned from using Arbor to Class Charts to record behaviour incidents. Incorrect jewellery, necklaces etc. will be confiscated and kept securely in the school office until the student collects at the end of the school day. Three incorrect uniform consequences in a week will result in a C3 detention. Wearing PE kit on the wrong day will result in a C3 detention. Plain grey, black or white socks must be worn (no odd socks). If students are persistently late to school with no valid reason, their consequences will increase to a C3 and C4 and parents will be requested to come in for a meeting in school. If mobile phones or other devices are used on a second occasion, a C4 will be issued as well as the phone confiscated until the end of the day. If there is persistent misuse of phones in school, parents will be called and will have to collect the phone from school themselves.

Please discuss these expectations with your son/daughter, we thank you for your continued support and look forward to working together over the course of the next academic year and beyond.

Click [here](#) to view our updated policy on our website.

Many thanks  
**Mr Laing**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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## **Y10 Info Evening Letter**

Dear parents/carers,

As we welcome our Year 10 students back to school this academic year, they will be provided with lots of information from their subject teachers about the next two years, as they begin their GCSE journeys. At KWS we feel that it is important that parents/carers are equipped with the same information about the challenges of the GCSE courses, so that you feel able to support your child to achieve their potential at GCSE level.

There have been many changes to the way that GCSEs are structured over the last few years and much of this information can be rather difficult to navigate if you are not familiar with it. In light of this, on Monday 11th September, we will be holding our 'Year 10 Parents/Carers Information Evening' from 6 - 7:30pm. The evening itself will consist of a talk from Mrs Stockwell about what to expect over the next two years, followed by presentations from our Subject Leads of English, Maths and Science. There will also be the opportunity for you to ask key members of staff any questions that you may still have following the presentations.

It is hoped that by the end of the evening you will:

- Have a greater understanding of the structure of GCSE courses, particularly the core subjects.
- Be aware of the challenges the students will be facing throughout the year and have improved knowledge of how to support them.
- Gain a greater understanding of the 'new' grading systems.
- Be introduced to work experience, which will take place in Year 10.
- Be able to identify the most appropriate member of staff to contact for support for your child, dependent on the type of need.

We, the staff at KWS, hope to welcome you for our Year 10 Parents/Carers Information Evening. Please note that students should not attend this event. Should you have any further questions about the evening, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Mr. Laing**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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## Attendance Review, Rewards & 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. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually. Any student with an attendance figure below 90% is defined nationally as a persistent absentee. This equates to just ...

**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.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events

Monday 11th September - Year 10 Parents Information Evening

Tuesday 12th September - Period 7 Army Talk

Thursday 14th Iceland Trip Parent Information Evening

Friday 15th September - Early finish for Open day - 12.05pm finish

Saturday 16th September - Open day

**Vista**  
St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership

**DSPL7** Delivering Special Provision Locally

# The Hub

## ASC/SEND Coffee Mornings

Vista St Albans are hosting coffee mornings with a School Family Worker to help support Parents/ Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for Parents/Carers to share information and chat.

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there will also be the opportunity to pre-book an appointment with a member of staff from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service (These sessions are for ASC advice).  
Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

**Time:** Coffee Morning starts at **9.15am** until **11.00am**  
(no need to book)

**Venue:** The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW  
(The Hub is situated to the right hand side of the School building)

**For more information about this service or to book an appointment please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 07584 798528  
Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com**

**Next date:**  
Wednesday 28th June  
Wednesday 4th October  
Wednesday 29th November  
Wednesday 31st January 2024  
Wednesday 13th March 2024  
Wednesday 8th May 2024  
Wednesday 26th June 2024

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