



Issue 114 - 12.9.25

Heads up

Dear KWS family,

It has been a truly fantastic start to the new academic year at KWS. The first weeks have been filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a real sense of purpose. It has been a joy to welcome our students back into the classrooms and see the corridors buzzing with activity once again.

I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students in their summer exams. We are delighted to report another outstanding set of results, with our students once again performing above the national average for all accountability measures. These results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff.

This year, we're particularly excited about our new initiatives aimed at fostering both academic excellence and personal growth. This will be driven by our KWS Character Education Curriculum.

Our teachers have been busy planning engaging lessons and creative projects that will challenge and inspire our students throughout the year. Beyond the classroom, our extracurricular clubs and sports teams are already up and running, providing so many opportunities for students to explore their passions and develop new skills. In addition our period 7 offering will start on 22nd September, with more options than ever before on offer. We believe that true education goes beyond grades, and we are committed to providing a rich environment where every student can thrive.

Our KWSixth Form continues to go from strength to strength, and we're thrilled to see a significant increase in the number of students joining us this year. This growth highlights the excellent reputation of our Sixth Form and the high-quality education and support we provide. We're excited to see what this talented group of students will achieve.

Our new Year 7 students have settled in wonderfully, and it's been great to see them making new friends and navigating their new environment with confidence. Our returning students have also stepped back into their routines with admirable focus, setting a positive example for all. We are so incredibly proud of the hard work and positive attitude our students have already shown. The early weeks of a school year are crucial for setting the tone, and we couldn't be more pleased with the start we've had. We are confident that this is going to be a year of significant growth,

learning, and achievement for all of our students.

Finally, a huge congratulations to the students and Miss Barnard who embarked on the incredible school Ecuador trip over the summer. It was an unforgettable journey, providing a truly unique opportunity for our students to experience new cultures, push their boundaries, and create lasting memories.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We look forward to working with you to help your children reach their full potential.

Have a great weekend.

David Martin
Headteacher



House Points

This weeks house point winner are **Nightingale. Congratulations!**



[View All News](#)

New Year 12 Cohort

This week, we were proud to welcome our new Year 12 cohort, marking a milestone as Katherine Warington becomes a full school. Our Year 12 students have already demonstrated an impressive attitude and strong work ethic in their first few days, making an excellent first impression. We extend a particularly warm welcome to those students who have joined us from ...



[Read more](#)

Welcome Back to the Library



Welcome back to all our students from the KWS Library Team. We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and that everyone has settled back into school life quickly and happily. We thought we would use this newsletter to remind our users of the services we provide, our opening hours and our facilities. Our library caters for all students ...

[Read more](#)

Great North Run - Completed it!

The morning air in Newcastle was a crisp mix of anticipation and nerves. My number was pinned, my laces were double-knotted, I had all the gadgets needed. Some would say, "all the gear and no idea". I was just one of thousands, but for my Dad and I, this was more than a race; it was a mission. Each stride ...

[Read more](#)



Attendance Rewards, Review & Absence Reporting Procedures

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

Attendance Rewards, 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. 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 ...

[Read more](#)

School Trampolining Squad

Our school Trampolining Squad are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, starting off with trials for new members next Friday and the first round of Hertfordshire School's Competitions in November. We also have really exciting news, as the squad are busy planning a 'Bounce off' fundraiser where they will attempt to keep the trampoline in motion for a set amount of hours. (Date tbc, so watch this space!) In the meantime, a Crowdfunder page has been set up so we can begin to raise money for much needed trampoline and gymnastics equipment that can also be used

by the whole school to enrich PE lessons. Please take a moment to look at our Crowdfunder page and don't forget to Gift Aid if you can. What's doubly exciting is that Sports England have already seen our page and have emailed to say that our fundraising initiative ticks their boxes for widening sports enrichment to children and have said that we are in for a chance to have any money raised matched by them! We appreciate your support.

Many thanks from Jo Day, Lara Washburn-Trampoline Coach



KWS Vacancies

Exam Invigilator: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145890/EDV-2025-KWS-25783>

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 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 and not the main KWAF email.

Upcoming Events

Friday 12th September - Early finish 12.05 in preparation for Open Morning

Saturday 13th September - Open Morning

Monday 15th September - INSET DAY - NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Tuesday 16th September - Year 10 Parents Information Evening

Monday 22nd September - Period 7 Block 1 Starts

Monday 22nd September - Year 12 Dragons Apprentice Launch

Thursday 25th September - UKMT Mathematics Competition for Girls

Thursday 25th September - Year 7 Parents Evening

Saturday 27th September to Wednesday 1st October - Year 10 Spanish Trip

Monday 29th September - Flu Jabs 1/2

Tuesday 30th September - Year 12 Parents Information Evening

Tuesday 2nd October - Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Monday 6th to Friday 17th October - Year 9 Option Change Window

Wednesday 8th October - Year 12 Born With Teeth Theatre Trip

Thursday 9th October - Senior Maths Challenge

Thursday 9th October - Year 12 Reports Issued

Tuesday 14th October - The Woman in Black Theatre Trip

Wednesday 15th October - Flu Jabs 2/2

Thursday 16th October - Year 7 Reports Issued

Thursday 16th October - Year 11 Parents Evening

Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October - Bikeability Year 7

Thursday 23rd October - Year 11 Bank of England Trip

Thursday 23rd October - DofE Bronze Training Twilight

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October - HALF TERM

Notices

Trip update:

Dear KWS Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to announce that the KWS trips department is launching a new software system called Evolve to manage all school trips. This new platform will streamline the entire trip process, making it easier for you to stay informed, handle paperwork, and manage payments.

With Evolve, you'll be able to:

- View all available trips in one place.
- Make secure online payments.
- Complete and submit consent forms digitally.
- Join waitlists for popular trips.

Evolve also comes with a mobile app, which you can download by searching for "MyEvolve" on your phone's app store. For staff, the system will help us keep students safer and ensure all trip logistics run as smoothly as possible.

Important Notes:

Any trips launched last year, such as the Spanish Residential, Manor Adventure, and China 2026, will continue to be managed through Arbor. All new trips will use the Evolve system.

To get started, please use the link below to register your account. Be sure to use the same email address that you use for Arbor. This will automatically link your account to your students.

Registration Link:

<https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/myevolve/setup.asp?id=KWSTrips>

We are confident that this new system will greatly improve the experience for everyone involved in our school trips. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

The KWS Trips Department

Non KWS Events/Publicity

Child Sexual Exploitation information from HALO

IS A CHILD YOU KNOW CURRENTLY BEING SEXUALLY EXPLOITED?

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

-  Adults befriending young people including buying them vapes, food and drinks
-  Missing from home
-  Absent from School
-  Not engaging with usual friends
-  Unexplained access to money
-  Receiving gifts from unknown sources
-  Displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour
-  Drug or alcohol misuse
-  Sharp change in mood or character
-  Change in appearance
-  Poor mental health and self-harming

**DON'T IGNORE YOUR GUT FEELING
THAT SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT**

Stage Coach

At Stagecoach Harpenden, we teach kids to express their emotions freely through acting, singing, and dancing. This safe space helps children understand and share their feelings, building emotional intelligence and gaining friendships that lasts a lifetime. Confidence in our classes, resilience in life!

Our Autumn term starts next weekend but there is still a chance for your child to join in the fun! Two week trials are still available in 90-minute sessions for 4-6 yr olds and 3 hour sessions for 7-16 yr olds! Classes are held on Fridays and Saturdays during term time at SJL School.

Call Principal, Liz, on 07793206846 or head to stagecoach.co.uk/harpenden to book your child's place today!



Harpenden Food and Drink Festival



Harpenden Food & Drink Festival 2025



SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
12-6PM

STREET FOOD | ENTERTAINMENT | FAMILY ZONE
MUSIC | FARMERS MARKET | OUTDOOR BARS

Main sponsor

RAYDENSOLICITORS



www.harpenden.gov.uk

Nip in the Bud

NIP IN THE BUD®



We are a charity set up to raise awareness about childrens' (between 7-16) mental health. Our mission is to be part of the change to see earlier interventions for young children who are either struggling with mental their mental health or living non-neurotypical lives in a neuro-typical world.

WWW.NIPINTHEBUD.ORG



WHY ARE WE HERE?

We're all too aware that certain expectations of young children in certain settings that lack understanding can often lead to issues with self esteem and mental health struggles. We are here to raise awareness and empower people (parents, carers, teachers and school communities) so that they can recognise and respond to ALL childrens needs as early as possible.

Mental health had a profound impact on our founders', Kitty and Daniel's lives. Their daughter first displayed symptoms of OCD at the age of eight but wasn't diagnosed until well into her late teens - precisely because there was such a serious lack of information about children's mental health conditions at the time. Nip in the Bud® was set up to encourage awareness and empower communities about mental health in young children through our free films & resources.



WWW.NIPINTHEBUD.ORG

OUR RESOURCES (FILMS & FACTSHEETS) COVER

[ATTENTION DEFICIT
HYPERACTIVITY
DISORDER \(ADHD\)](#)

[ANXIETY
DISORDERS](#)

[AUTISM SPECTRUM
CONDITION \(ASC\)](#)

[DEPRESSION](#)

[EATING DISORDERS](#)

[CONDUCT &
OPPOSITIONAL
DEFIANCE
DISORDERS](#)

[OBSESSIVE
COMPULSIVE
DISORDER \(OCD\)](#)

[SELF-HARM](#)

[TRAUMA](#)

[POST-TRAUMATIC
STRESS DISORDER
\(PTSD\)](#)

[MANAGING
EMOTIONS](#)

Supporting Links Workshops

Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD Workshops Autumn 2025



Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in [Hertfordshire](#) of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

[← Eventbrite Page](#)

RESPONDING to ANGER



- Healthy & unhealthy anger.
- How to spot the signs early.
- Our own and our children's triggers.
- Techniques that stop angry and aggressive behaviour escalating and when to use them.
- How to respond to our child in meltdown, keeping ourselves, our child and siblings safe.

Tuesday 23rd September, 9.30-11.15am

Workshop SL781 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/asd-adhd-responding-to-anger-781-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1413258727899?aff=oddtcreator>

THE TEENAGE YEARS



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Help teens develop independence skills.

Monday 13th October, 7.30-9.15pm

Workshop SL782 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-the-teenage-years-782-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417376895449?aff=oddtcreator>

SCHOOL AVOIDANCE



- What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance and is this what your child is experiencing?
- Common causes and triggers of school avoidance.
- How EBSA is affecting you and your family.
- Practical steps you can take to support your child and look after yourself.
- How to work with your school in your child's best interests.

Monday 10th November, 7.30-9.15pm

Workshop SL783 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-school-avoidance-783-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417463965879?aff=oddtcreator>

TECH USE



- Keep your child safe online.
- Help your child to switch their device off.
- Support behaviour difficulties when playing.
- The effect of using devices as a reward or consequence.
- Teach children to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

Monday 24th November, 7.30-9.15pm

Workshop SL784 book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-adhd-tech-use-784-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-1417436894909?aff=oddtcreator>

Follow us on:



Contact via:

info@supportinglinks.co.uk
www.supportinglinks.co.uk

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



Information you share with us is used to process your booking. This will be held securely and only shared in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

TALKING FAMILIES

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **0-12** sharing tips on:

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self-esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

17th Sep – 22nd Oct

Online Course ID 774

Tuesdays 9.45 - 11.15am

4th Nov – 9th Dec

Online Course ID 772

Tuesdays 8.00 - 9.30pm

4th Nov – 9th Dec

Online Course ID 773

TALKING ANXIETY in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children **11-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get anxious.
- Develop strategies to handle anxiety in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anxiety.
- Reduce stress and tension.
- Encourage resilient behaviour.



Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm

16th Sep – 21st Oct

Online Course ID 776

TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of children **0-19**, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.



Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

17th Sep – 22nd Oct

Online Course: ID 779

Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm

5th Nov – 10th Dec

Online Course: ID 780

Booking essential. Please Quote the Course ID

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact Supporting Links on: 07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

These courses are provided free to parents by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund
Information taken on booking will be used to process your booking, check your eligibility, identify any access needs and will be stored in accordance with our GDPR policy which is available on request



FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **12-19**, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
16th Sep – 21st Oct
Online Course: ID 778

Thursdays 7.45 - 9.15pm
6th Nov – 11th Dec
Online Course: ID 777

TALKING ANGER in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged **11-19**, supporting you to:

- Understand why children & adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.



Tuesdays 7.45 - 9.30pm
4th Nov – 9th Dec
Online Course: ID 775

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A 6-week group for parents and carers of children **2-19**, with any additional need. Your child does not need a diagnosis.

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Develop strategies that really work.
- Reduce conflict.
- Improve emotional regulation.
- Explore sensory needs.
- Increase your child's resilience.
- Manage different needs in your family.



Wednesdays 7pm - 9pm
5th Nov – 10th Dec
Course ID 771
Reddings Family Centre,
Bushey, WD23 3PE

Wednesdays 9.45 - 11.15am
17th Sep – 22nd Oct
Course ID 770

CALLING ALL PARENTS & STUDENTS THE GREAT ST ALBANS CHALLENGE IS BACK WITH A

BANG!

12th October 2025

Your mission: Grab your team, don your cape and take to the streets of St Albans for a superhero themed GPS treasure hunt in support of Youth Talk

- ★ Fun for families, friends. . . and school teams too!
- ★ Complete photo & video missions. Rack up points (not speed!).
- ★ Trophy for the top School Team!
- ★ Dress to impress - prizes for the best costumes!
- ★ All heroes receive medals - with trophies, prizes and surprise guests at the finale!

START: St Albans Cathedral (Start anytime between 1pm and 2pm)

FINISH: The Alban Arena (Doors open from 4.00pm)

Mental health matters. By taking part, you'll help raise vital funds for Youth Talk, your local charity supporting young people with free, confidential counselling.

www.greatstalbanschallenge.org.uk

Headline Sponsor
 **PHOENIX**
CONSTRUCTION

In aid of
YOUTH
TALK
We're listening

Scan the QR
code to SIGN UP





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