

Knowledge . Wellbeing . Success



TRADITIONAL VALUES WITH AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

# Headteacher's Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Katherine Warrington School, an institution committed to providing an exceptional education and nurturing environment for your child. Our mission is to foster a passion for learning and to equip our students with the skills and values necessary to thrive – Knowledge, Wellbeing, Success.

Katherine Warrington School opened in September 2019. We are a comprehensive, co-educational and non-denominational academic secondary school. Katherine Warrington School was established through the partnership of the three secondary schools in Harpenden: Roundwood Park, St George's and Sir John Lawes, complemented by our additional partners: University of Hertfordshire and Rothamsted Research Centre.



*Headteacher David Martin welcoming students on their first day at Katherine Warrington*

Our state-of-the-art facilities provide a stimulating and modern learning environment. From our well-equipped science labs and music suites to our vibrant art studios and expansive sports facilities, we offer our students the resources they need to excel and explore their interests fully.

Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced, offering a range of subjects that challenge and inspire. We place a strong emphasis on the core academic disciplines while also providing rich opportunities in the arts, sports, and extracurricular activities. This holistic approach ensures that our students receive an all-encompassing education, preparing them not only for academic success but also for life beyond school.

Our shared belief is that young people have the right to a transformational educational experience that will enable them to fulfil their potential and realise their ambitions. **Talent is evenly distributed, opportunity isn't.** Our dedicated and highly qualified staff work tirelessly to create a supportive and stimulating environment where students can achieve academic excellence and develop as well-rounded individuals. We pride ourselves on our inclusive ethos, encouraging all students to participate fully in school life and to strive for their personal best.

I invite you to visit us, meet our staff and students, and experience first-hand the positive and nurturing atmosphere that defines our school. We are confident that our commitment to excellence in education will provide your child with the foundation they need to succeed and make a positive impact in the world.

Mr D Martin  
Headteacher

We pride ourselves on kindness and respect and seek to deliver a positive contribution to our community. Our school is a hub for the local area, including students, parents, staff, neighbours and the wider community.

## We value:

**Knowledge** - built through our diverse curriculum. Students develop a thirst for knowledge through inspirational teaching and, as their school career progresses, they are afforded more and more personalised opportunities to apply knowledge and develop life skills.

**Wellbeing** - students and staff value the importance of looking after their own and others' wellbeing and health. Through participation, collaboration and a focus on kindness and integrity, our school community is ready to face the challenges of a developing world.

**Success** - students and staff believe nothing is impossible if it will improve learners' life chances. Students are supported to fulfil their potential, realise their personal ambitions, and have the confidence and resilience to meet their challenges.

## The KWS Learner

At Katherine Warington School, our mission is to equip our students with everything they need to succeed both in school and in later life. Our relentless focus on academic excellence is matched by our commitment to helping students develop the characteristics they need to reach their full potential in the wider world.

### To help shape the next generation, we:

- put students at the **heart of everything we do**
- provide an **exciting range of academic opportunities** that promote **intellectual curiosity, resilience** and a sense of success
- provide a **broad and balanced curriculum** that challenges all learners
- **champion sustainability** and model to students how we can care for our environment
- focus on **character development** - we intentionally shape opportunities for students to develop the characteristics of successful people
- **provide opportunities** for our students to engage with the wider community
- provide an **outstanding personal development** offering with a vast range of extra-curricular opportunities to help students find their passion and flourish
- **champion diversity** and ask everyone to contribute to our school community

The school's innovative and ambitious curriculum is well designed to ensure pupils learn knowledge in clearly measured steps.

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*'I just want to say a big thank you to you, and the rest of the team for the way you've looked after and helped my child. Additionally, his report for this term is out of this world and goes to show the progress he's made with his studies.'*

Year 8 parent

*'My child is so lucky to be at KWS, he has great role models, interesting subjects and a school that cares about him.'*

Year 8 parent

For profiles of our Headteacher, staff and trustees, please refer to our website [www.kwschool.co.uk/staff](http://www.kwschool.co.uk/staff).

## Character

We recognise that excellent academic success needs to be matched with excellent character education. At Katherine Warington School, we actively promote the key values and character traits of successful people and consciously create opportunities for students to develop them through our character curriculum.

Pupils benefit from the school's impressive character development programme.

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'KWS puts the students at the centre of everything. It offers more than just academic lessons and helps them to grow into more confident and well rounded young people.'

Year 9 parent

'They are clearly proud of their school. Schools aren't just about working towards getting good GCSE results and it's clear that KWS is focused on developing character too.'

Year 9 parent

## GCSE results achieved by Year 11 students 2024/25

Our commitment to academic excellence is highlighted by our extremely impressive GCSE results. Our students leave KWS with above average results in every accountability measure.

| KWS KS4 Results                      | 2024 KWS Average Grade          | 2025 KWS Average Grade                              | DfE National Grade (Provisional) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Attainment <b>8 Overall</b>          | 5.3                             | 5.6 ↑                                               | 4.6                              |
| Attainment <b>English</b>            | 6.0                             | 6.0 ↑                                               | 4.9                              |
| Attainment <b>Maths</b>              | 5.2                             | 5.6 ↑                                               | 4.5                              |
| Attainment <b>Ebacc</b>              | 5.3                             | 5.8 ↑                                               | 4.4                              |
| % 4+ GCSE <b>English &amp; Maths</b> | 74%                             | 79% ↑                                               | 64%                              |
| % 5+ GCSE <b>English &amp; Maths</b> | 57%                             | 63% ↑                                               | 45%                              |
| % 5+ GCSE <b>at 7-9</b>              | 17%                             | 33% ↑                                               | 16%                              |
| <b>Progress 8</b>                    | +0.48<br>Above National Average | No progress measure due to Covid impacting KS2 SATs |                                  |

↑ Result greater than National Average

### Some highlights from 2024 results:

- Progress in English puts KWS in top 8% of schools nationally.
- Attainment for biology, chemistry and physics places KWS in top 6% ,9% and 6% of schools nationally.
- Attainment for combined science puts KWS in top 11% nationally.

Statistics for 2025 will be released by the Department for Education at the end of the Autumn term.



Pupils are proud of their school. They flourish in the school's ethos of achievement and learning. They know that learning is important and approach their studies with genuine determination to do their best.

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## Subjects at KS3/4

Our curriculum offer is in line with the national curriculum and we are proud of our wide range of subjects that arm students with the knowledge and skills they need to become truly global citizens. Students will have access to cutting edge technology and expert teachers to help spark their curiosity and allow them to deepen their understanding of a truly diverse range of subjects.

*Pupils have high aspirations for themselves and their peers. They take pleasure in each other's success*

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### KS3 (Years 7&8)

All students study:

Art  
Computing  
Design Technology  
Drama and Dance  
English  
Geography  
History  
Mandarin  
Maths  
Music  
PE  
PRE  
PSHCE  
Science  
Spanish

### Year 9

Students select their options in Year 8 and begin their GCSE study in Year 9. All students study:

English Language  
English Literature  
Maths  
Science  
PRE  
Core PE  
KWS Arts Culture Society Award - a bespoke curriculum unique to KWS where students explore a range of global issues whilst developing important presentation and oracy skills

### Options List

Triple Science or Combined Science  
Further Maths  
Business  
Computing  
Dance  
Design Technology  
Drama  
Fine Art  
Food  
Geography  
History  
IT  
Mandarin  
Media  
Music  
PE  
Spanish  
Textiles



## Personal and Social Development

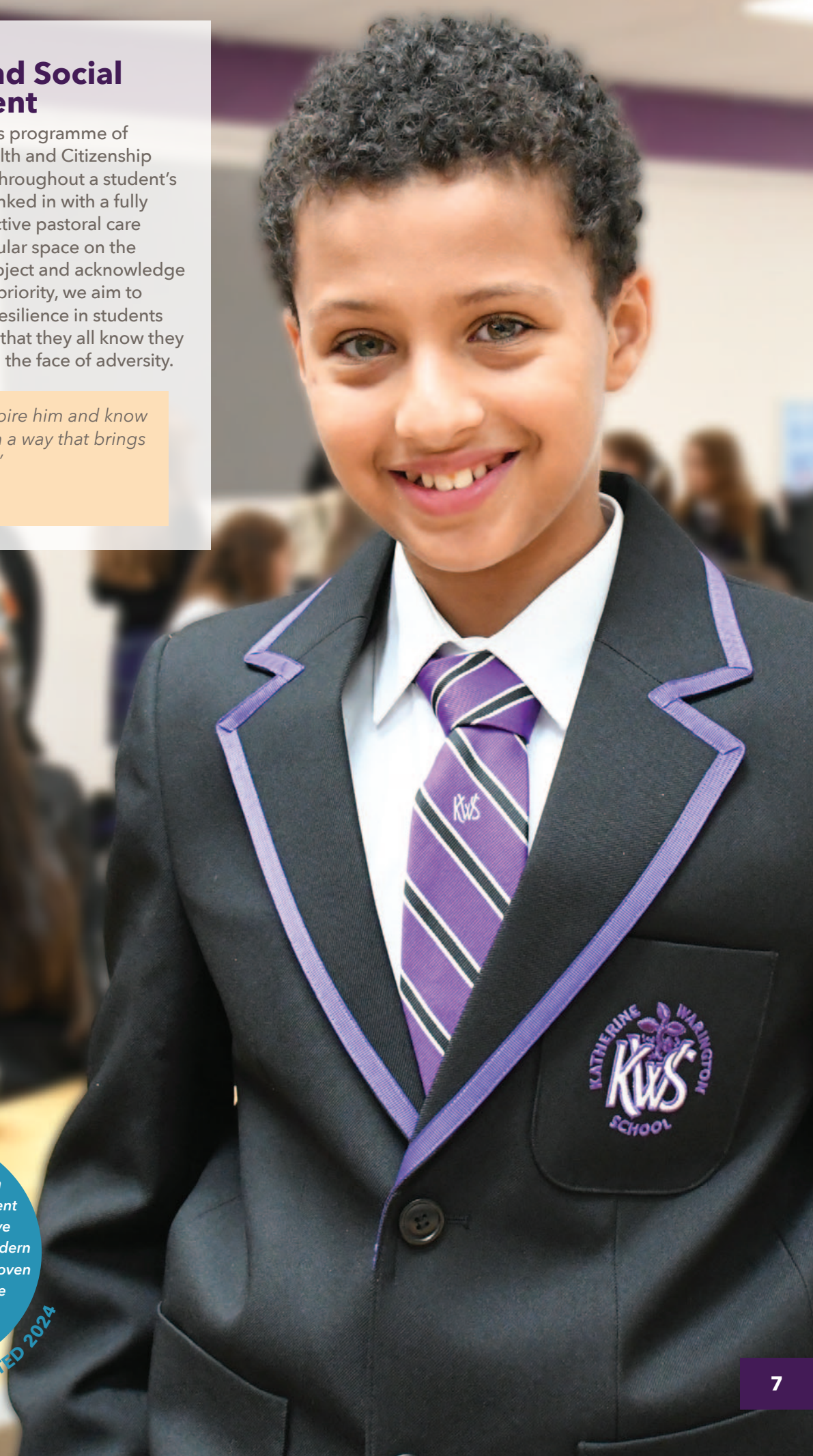
There is a continuous programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) throughout a student's time at our school, linked in with a fully developed and effective pastoral care system. We give regular space on the timetable for this subject and acknowledge its importance. As a priority, we aim to develop emotional resilience in students and their families so that they all know they can succeed, even in the face of adversity.

*'Teachers really inspire him and know how to teach him in a way that brings out the best in him.'*

Year 7 parent

The school's exceptional provision for personal development ensures that pupils leave school ready for life in modern Britain. It is successfully woven into everyday life at the school and across the curriculum.

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## KWSixth

Our programmes of study are designed to allow students to achieve their full potential and to be ready for the next step in their academic journey. Our links with Balliol College (Oxford) and Gonville and Caius College (Cambridge), Russell Group universities and those closer to home mean students are fully prepared to reach their aspirations. We are extremely proud that the vast majority of students stay with us when they move into KWSixth, our dedicated Sixth Form provision. Students benefit from a range of extraordinary opportunities and expert teaching to help them carve out their future path and to have everything they need to find success.

For more information about our Sixth Form provision, please use the QR code opposite to look at our dedicated **KWSixth website and prospectus**.



## Beyond the Classroom

### Super Curriculum

We understand that learning happens outside the classroom too. We offer an amazing range of opportunities through our Super Curriculum and our Academics programmes to challenge students to push themselves and try new experiences. These opportunities are shaped by student voice and are mainly delivered through our dedicated period 7 sessions divided into mind, body and soul categories.

On any given day at KWS, you might see students mountain biking, debating, becoming sports journalists, practising yoga, playing chess, exploring the universe, building rockets and much, much more. Your child can join our public speaking team, become an anti-bullying ambassador, engage with music practice, be part of the choir or orchestra or join our drama club in preparation for our very popular productions.

Alongside this incredible provision, we also offer a huge range of before school, lunchtime, and after school clubs and a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Whatever their passion is, at KWS all students get the chance to try new experiences, make memories and discover interests that will last a lifetime.

*They take up the extensive opportunities to learn about 'mind, body and soul' with great enthusiasm.*

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*'Period 7 options are amazing and sets the school apart from the rest.'*

Year 8 parent

*'KWS encourages and supports pupils to pursue the areas they're interested in. Really impressed also with the variety of period 7 choices and the Academics initiative.'*

Year 8 parent



## Academics

We pride ourselves on our rich abundance of extracurricular and super curricular activities, designed to challenge and extend our students' learning beyond the classroom.

Our Academics Programme is a non-selective scheme of work that all students can complete, over the course of a year, to become an Academic in a chosen subject, or, should they wish, more than one subject. Successful completion results in a prestigious Academics badge awarded by the Headteacher, to proudly display on their uniform. It also entitles them to a number of perks including access to a number of exclusive inspiring talks and trips.

Participation in the Academics Programme is the ideal avenue for our students to showcase their passions and desire to learn more about certain subjects. Dedicating themselves to challenges beyond the classroom demonstrates their ambition and willingness to improve. Qualities we, along with universities and future employers value highly.



## Trips and Visits

Our focus on academic excellence helps to shape our trips and visits offer. Students at KWS have the opportunity to attend a wide range of trips to supplement their in-lesson studies. Trips and visits offer the chance for new experiences, new friendships and lifelong memories.

**Here are just a few of the trips and visits that have been offered recently:**

### Trips abroad:

China trip to Beijing and Xi'an  
Iceland  
Munich  
Ski trip to Valmeinier  
Belgium and France battlefields trip  
Spanish trip to Valencia  
Camps International trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

### UK-based

Year 7 residential  
Bank of England  
British Film Institute  
Theatre workshops and visits  
Climbing the O2  
University visits  
Science Museum  
Jane Austen trip to Bath  
Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

*'I'd like to say how grateful we are to the teachers at KWS who provide cover for all of the extra-curricular opportunities my daughter has had this year including performing arts, the ski-trip and the upcoming D of E expeditions which she is very excited about. I know that the teachers have had to give up time with their own families to provide these amazing opportunities and it is appreciated.'*

Year 9 parent



## House System

Our inaugural cohort of students selected inspiring figures from history who each demonstrate the character and values we seek in a KWS learner. Upon joining KWS, students are placed in one of the six houses named after these figures below right.

A student's house will be their community within a community through their time here. Students take part in a range of activities and competitions throughout the year that are designed to promote character development. Sports Day, charity events, curriculum competitions, individual achievements and much more all help students to win points for their house and hopefully lift the house cup at the end of the year but, more importantly, they help all students to be the best they can be.



## Student Leadership

When we say we put students at the heart of what we do, nothing exemplifies this more than our student leadership structure.

Students from all levels of the school represent their forms, houses, years and key stages and meet as a student council who regularly feedback to staff and the Senior Leadership Team and even our Trustees.

Most importantly, we listen. Students are empowered to suggest and make changes that benefit the whole school community and learn about leadership, resilience and independence along the way. We are incredibly proud of our student leaders and what they have achieved and look forward to hearing the voices of our new KWS students.

*Pupils support each other well within this strong learning community.*

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## HEAD STUDENTS



Becky D.



Tristan H.



Thea O.



Jacob T.

*'Being a member of the student council has opened so many doors for me in school and given me the opportunity to lead and make a difference. It has really helped shape my character and built up my confidence.'*

Gabi D - Year 10 Student councillor

*'Speaking in assemblies and presenting to the Senior Leadership Team has helped improve my public speaking, and leading student council meetings taught me how to hold meetings and ensure everyone's voice is heard. Taking on a leadership role has also given me more opportunities to take initiative and led me to create our school's podcast, KWSTalks, with Tristan, which gave students and staff a new platform to share ideas and experiences.'*

Becky D, Head Girl

## Literacy and Oracy

At KWS, we place a huge emphasis on literacy and oracy. Being able to read and write critically and speak confidently are crucial skills for academic success and for later life. We are committed to ensuring every student leaves us with a love of reading and the ability to speak confidently and fluently in a range of situations.

Our fully stocked library and access to our e-library means that every child can find the right book or audiobook for them when they need it.

We provide opportunities throughout the year for students to hear from and work with poets, authors, journalists and illustrators, and we even have a book awards club that gives students the chance to vote on which books should win national awards.

'Teachers are absolutely amazing! Incredibly supportive and great at engaging. He is happy (never reluctant) to go into school each day. It's a simple gauge but a very important one.'

Year 9 parent



## KWS Library

At KWS, we are incredibly proud of our library and everything it makes possible.

More than just a collection of books, it is a hub of curiosity, creativity, and connection. The library offers a safe and welcoming space for all our students – a place to learn, to explore, and to be inspired. It plays a vital role in school life, supporting academic growth as well as wellbeing, and we are delighted that it continues to be such an important part of our community.

### Use of the library at break, lunch and after school

- we have averaged 150 students a day using the library

### From September 2024 up until August 2025

- ePlatform stats: 6,183 total loans  
685 reserves  
2935 active patrons  
3774 active titles





## The Arts at KWS

Creativity thrives at KWS. Through dance, drama, music and performing arts, students are encouraged to express themselves, build confidence and resilience and develop their unique talents. Whether performing on stage, composing music, choreographing routines, or leading behind the scenes, students are empowered to express themselves, collaborate, and find their place within our creative community.

Our students benefit from specialist studios, practice rooms and recording equipment, and are supported by passionate staff and visiting professionals. We offer an exciting range of opportunities both in and beyond the classroom, including:

- Annual school productions (Legally Blonde, Shrek, Guys and Dolls, Beauty and the Beast, Bugsy Malone and upcoming A Midsummer Night's Dream)
- Spring Concert & Big Dance Competition
- KWS Theatre Company & Dance Company
- Junior & Senior Choir and Orchestra
- Peripatetic music lessons
- Theatre trips, workshops and masterclasses
- Annual KWS Arts Awards

They thrive  
in the many high-  
quality opportunities  
for them to develop  
artistically and  
musically

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*'The band is such a nice community and I've got to know people from lots of different year groups. It is a safe space, and I feel I can express myself, and it really helps to develop my music skills. Performing in front of people really helps improve my confidence, and I don't get as nervous anymore. It's one of the best things I've done at KWS!'*

Year 10 student



**At KWS, the Arts aren't just a subject - they are a celebration of who our students are and who they aspire to be.**

## Sports at KWS

At Katherine Warrington School, we understand the importance of physical activity and healthy choices for all. Our state of the art sporting facilities and dedicated staff mean all students can enjoy the benefits of regular physical activity and achieve sporting success. Our students have the opportunity to represent the school in a huge range of sports and we enjoy celebrating their achievements. Our students have represented the school in a number of national and international sporting events including cricket, football, netball, rugby, trampolining, gymnastics, tennis, badminton and much more.

We balance inclusivity and sporting excellence and we are dedicated to ensuring we use sport as a force for good for all students.

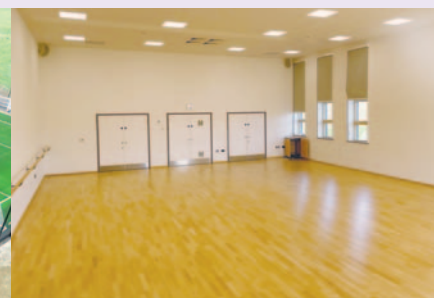
*Pupils develop sophisticated understanding about how to stay physically and mentally healthy*

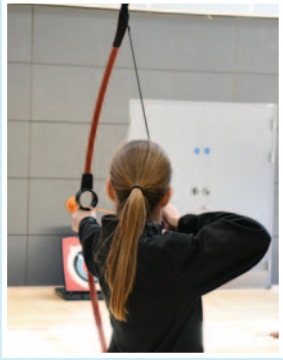
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## Facilities include:

- Student gymnasium
- State of the art floodlit 3G astro turf pitch
- Multiple playing field spaces including rugby field and separate cricket pitches
- MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) with netball, basketball and tennis courts
- Dance studio
- Basketball courts
- Vast range of inclusive school sports equipment
- Indoor and outdoor table tennis tables





## Careers

Our extensive careers provision runs from Year 7 through to Year 13. Students are offered a huge range of careers-focused opportunities to help them learn about the world of work and find their passion and have dedicated curriculum sessions to do so. Students learn about a range of different careers, receive talks from figures such as Senior Vice President for General Merchandising at TK Maxx, and the UK CEO of Tesco. Students also have the opportunity to complete a week of work experience in Year 10 with recent placements including Channel 4 and Audi AG in Germany.



# Student Support and Wellbeing

## Pastoral Care

At Katherine Warrington School, we ensure that no child is left out or left behind. All staff have pastoral responsibilities, and tutor teams work closely with senior leadership and support specialists to provide a continual and proactive pastoral care system that values every child and builds strong supportive links with families.

Furthermore, our weekly celebration assemblies are in place to give space and time to reflect on the moments that have made staff and students proud throughout the week. We recognise excellence and celebrate the amazing work of our students and staff whilst reflecting on the characteristics and values that have helped us to achieve success.

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

At Katherine Warrington School, we cherish diversity and actively seek opportunities to learn from experiences and perspectives that are not our own. We appreciate that each member of the KWS community is an individual; therefore, we endeavour to distribute resources and opportunities equitably to ensure that every person thrives and feels a true sense of belonging at Katherine Warrington School.



*'The school offers excellent pastoral care and a nurturing environment.'*

Year 9 student

*'They go above and beyond to help you. KWS staff genuinely care about their students and families. I am glad my child got accepted at KWS.'*

Year 11 parent

*Pupils demonstrate exceptional sensitivity when discussing people's different lifestyles and beliefs.*

*They understand complex social issues within contemporary society*

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## A typical day

From Monday to Thursday school starts with 25 minutes of form time, within which students attend a year group assembly once a week. This is followed by two back to back 50 minute lessons, Periods 1 and 2.

After that there is a 20 minute morning break. Periods 3 and 4 then take place before lunchtime.

Lunch is 45 minutes long and year groups enter our food hall on rotation. We run a range of lunchtime clubs as well as after school opportunities. Periods 5 and 6 follow after lunch, and then we end with Period 7 (see further details on page 9).

On a Friday we start the day with three lessons (periods 1 to 3), have a slightly later break from 11-11.20am and then Period 4 and 5. After lunch all students register in forms and then attend our Celebration Assembly in the Sports Hall, where we are able to highlight the many fantastic achievements of our students and showcase great work.



| MONDAY - THURSDAY                                  | FRIDAY                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| School Buildings Open<br>07.30                     | School Buildings Open<br>07.30           |
| Breakfast served<br>08.00 - 08.25                  | Breakfast served<br>08.00 - 08.25        |
| Morning registration/<br>Assembly<br>08.30 - 08.55 | Register &<br>Lesson 1:<br>08.30 - 09.20 |
| Period 1<br>8.55 - 09.45                           | Lesson 2:<br>09.20 - 10.10               |
| Period 2<br>09.45 - 10.35                          | Lesson 3:<br>10.10 - 11.00               |
| Morning Break<br>10.35 - 10.55                     | Break<br>11.00 - 11.20                   |
| Period 3<br>10.55 - 11.45                          | Lesson 4:<br>11.20 - 12.10               |
| Period 4<br>11.45 - 12.35                          | Lesson 5:<br>12.10 - 13.00               |
| Lunch/Lunch clubs<br>12.35 - 13.20                 | Lunch<br>13.00 - 13.45 (no clubs)        |
| Period 5<br>13.20 - 14.10                          | Celebration Assembly<br>13.45 - 14.30    |
| Period 6<br>14.10 - 15.00                          |                                          |
| Period 7<br>15.00 - 15.30                          |                                          |
| School ends<br>15.30                               | School ends<br>14.30                     |

*'KWS thinks about the whole wellbeing of the children. not just academics, but mental health and wellbeing as well as physical health.'*

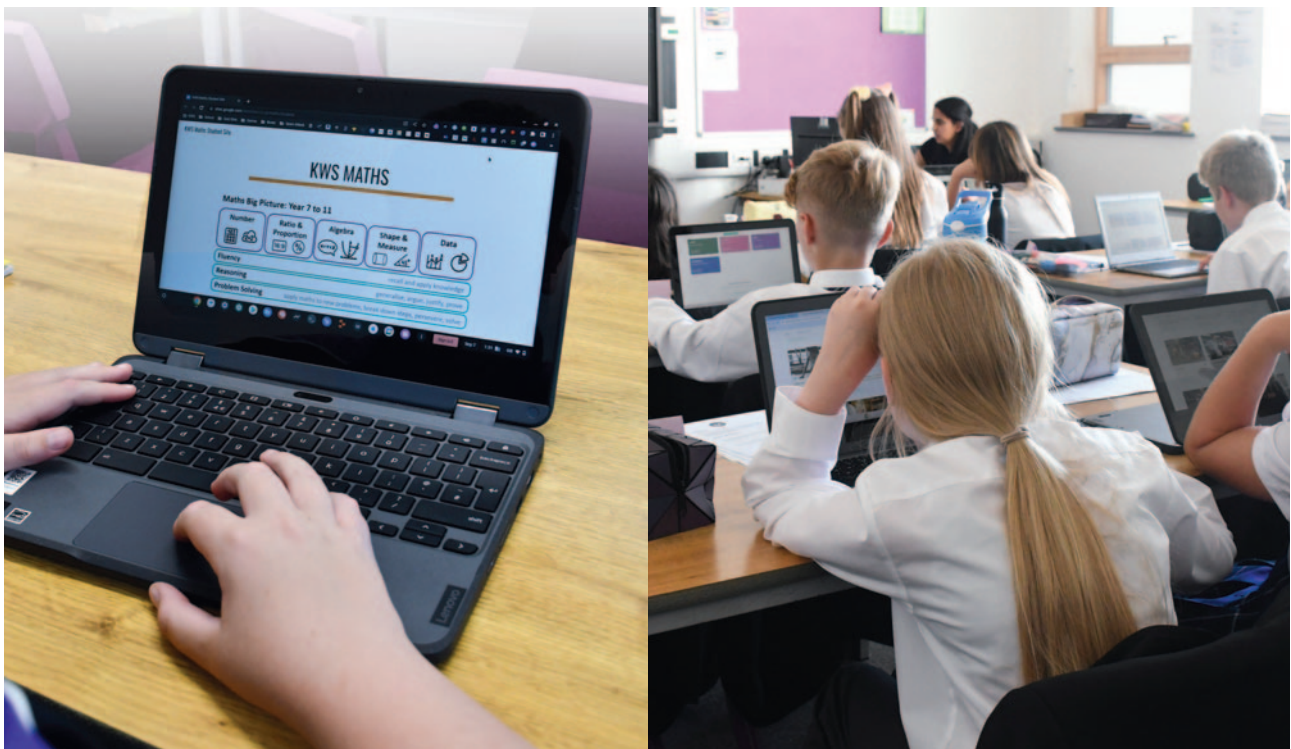
Year 10 parent

## Transition into KWS

Starting secondary school is a unique experience for every child as they embark on the next chapter of their school career. Our transition programme supports each child to feel ready for all the new and exciting challenges that secondary school brings.

Summer School is held every summer as an additional opportunity for new Year 7 students to explore the KWS grounds, while acclimatising to the expected schedule of secondary school life and enjoying a variety of taster lessons in new subjects. It's an amazing opportunity to learn about well-being, school values, the house system, and everything else they need to be successful from their first day.

We recognise that the transition from primary to secondary is also a milestone moment for parents. We hold a new parents' event prior to transition day so you can ask any questions that have not been answered, and another in the first term to discuss how your child has settled in.



## Chromebooks

All KWS students are encouraged to have and own a Chromebook for use during the school day and at home. Students will use Chromebooks as an educational resource to support their learning alongside traditional exercise books and resources.

Chromebooks offer:

- A suite of free Google applications (word processing, spreadsheets and presentations)
- Online organisation and admin including Gmail, Calendar, and ClassCharts.
- Collaboration - shared learning with Google Sites, Google Classroom (and all the above applications) e.g. creating mind maps

- Online resources in class and at home - including the best and most up to date textbooks, eBooks, an endless range of educational apps and so much more

Keeping safe online - we actively teach students how to be safe, responsible digital citizens through our Computing and PSHE curriculums. We also have a range of systems in place to ensure that students use their Chromebooks safely and responsibly, and offer support and guidance to parents to help keep children safe online.

*'The use of technology is fantastic as it empowers and enables children to access learning.'*

Year 7 parent

## Catering

We are proud to say our catering partner is HCL (Herts Catering Ltd) and our exciting all day food offer starts with breakfast through to mid-morning break and lunch time service. Students have a varied menu offer to ensure every child has access to nutritional meals that they truly enjoy. Menus are designed with guidance from expert nutritionists and alterations are made to meet dietary requirements.

The easy to use online cashless payment system is set up for parents or guardians to set daily spending limits, view purchases and sign up to low balance alerts.



## Sustainability

At Katherine Warington School, we take our role as a leader in the community seriously and we are dedicated to championing sustainability and modelling good practice for future generations. We are a proud recipient of an Eco-Schools Green Flag to recognise the work of our students in shaping sustainable ways of working.

We are delighted that our commitment to sustainable transport has been recognised at a national level and have been awarded the 'National STARS Secondary School of the Year Award for 2021/22 and 2022/23. We promote sustainable travel and have extensive cycle parking for students and staff. We also run, in conjunction with HCC, cycle training courses for students to ensure they are safe when cycling.

We have embraced the use of renewables and generate our own electricity through our solar panels, and have dedicated recycling points throughout the school building to ensure we waste as little as possible. We also provide a uniform swap-shop to help recycle outgrown uniform and to help families manage the cost of uniform.

Our students explore a range of issues relating to the environment and sustainability, and many suggestions from our student council show our students' dedication to creating a sustainable future.

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## FAQs

### ***How will I know how my child is doing and who should I speak to?***

*We appreciate that communicating with a secondary school may seem daunting. Through your child's time here at KWS, your main point of contact will be their form tutor and you are able to contact them through various channels at any point through the school day. Our pastoral teams work closely with our curriculum teams to ensure that communication is clear across the school and you will also have the ability to contact class teachers directly.*

### ***What is the school uniform policy and where can I buy my child's uniform?***

*For details of our uniform policy and our suppliers, please see the school website for the latest updates. Our uniform policy is updated yearly to reflect any changes to government legislation and we work with parents to ensure all students have everything they need to be ready for school.*

### ***Where can I find information about transport to and from school?***

*We work closely with Herts County Council to ensure that likely walking routes and cycling routes are safe, well lit and maintained. Similarly, we are engaged with the commercial bus companies which provide student transport to seek increases in capacity on those routes and identify potential additional routes that will be commercially viable for those companies. It is important to note that the school does not arrange or organise transport and that all decisions around transport are made by Herts County Council.*

*Information on the bus services currently serving the school is available on the school website.*

### **Do students complete all of their work on their Chromebooks?**

Students do not complete all of their work on Chromebooks but they are a crucial tool to help students succeed at KWS. They will be used in many lessons for a variety of reasons and help students to access a vast range of resources to complete their home learning. We ensure there is a balance and we have a strong focus on handwriting and presentation for all students through the use of traditional exercise books and paper-based resources.

### **Are students set in classes at KWS?**

All KS3 classes are mixed attainment - there is no setting or streaming. We are an evidence informed school and the evidence points to sets not being beneficial. The EEF reports 'the impact of setting and streaming is 0 months progress'. Studies from the broader evidence base conclude that grouping pupils on the basis of attainment may have longer term negative effects on the attitudes and engagement of students.

Being labelled (top / bottom etc) leads to anxiety and issues ('I'm not good enough to be in top or I am in the bottom why bother?'). Or complacency, ('I'm top, I don't need to work now').

Sets are based on a moment in time view; students ability in class and the work they can access and complete in reality changes based on many factors.

We do have some students working well below age related expectations in some of our year groups, and when needed, we add in a support class in Year 8 English and Maths.

### **How do you challenge high-achieving students?**

Our teachers are experts in their field and work together to produce challenging schemes of work for learners at all levels. Teachers know their students and will provide bespoke stretch activities for all learners that require them. Our Academics programme and huge range of enrichment opportunities also mean those students will have a continuous diet of challenging and rewarding opportunities.

### **How can I get involved at KWS?**

We know that a successful school builds partnerships and trust with families/carers, and the school works continually with all families and members of the community to ensure all students achieve the best they possibly can. For those wishing to help at KWS, we always welcome volunteers to help with sports fixtures, period 7 sessions, performances, reading mentors and many other areas.

Our parent/school organisation, KWAf (Katherine Warrington Association of Friends), organise a range of events throughout the year and help the school to support local charities and in-school initiatives. They are always looking for new volunteers to help and ensure we have a range of direct links between our school and parents.



## **Application Details**

Details of how to apply to Katherine Warrington School for **September 2026** are on the school website <https://kwschool.co.uk/admissions/>

Information regarding the proximity of the nearest secondary school can be found on HCC website <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

The closing date for applications for **September 2026** entry is **31 October 2025**.

On **1 March 2026**, national offer day, you will be allocated a secondary school.

## Our Name: Dr Katherine Warington

**Katherine Warington was born in Harpenden on 5th September 1897.** She and her identical twin sister Helen (Nell) were the youngest of five daughters of Robert and Helen Warington, who lived at High Bank, 14 Milton Road in Harpenden, a spacious property built for the family by Robert (they had three older sisters, Elizabeth, Margaret and Dorothy). Robert Warington was an agricultural chemist who worked at the Rothamsted Experimental Station alongside John Lawes. Katherine's mother died when she was about a year old and for a few years afterwards Katherine and Nell were brought up by their aunt Gertrude in Oxford. Eventually they returned to Harpenden, after their father had remarried.

Katherine was educated at a boarding school, St Mary and St Anne's in Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. Her education was interrupted by the First World War, when she spent some time in Yeovil, Somerset working on the land, where she was accredited as a flax harvester. At a time when few women went to university, let alone became scientists, she then studied at Royal Holloway College in London and obtained an Honours degree in Biology in 1920. She worked as a volunteer at Rothamsted for a short while but by 1921 she had joined the Botany Department to work under Dr Winifred Brenchley D.Sc. Katherine continued with her studies and gained an M.Sc. from the University of London in 1922.

Katherine's initial research was into the micronutrients needed for the successful growth of broad beans by making them distasteful to blackfly. Through careful laboratory trials she showed that boron was essential for the growth of the beans and published her first, and seminal, paper, 'The effect of Boric Acid and Borax on the Broad Bean and certain other plants' in *The Annals of Botany* in 1923. She subsequently published further papers on a similar theme either on her own or with Winifred Brenchley. She was regarded as having demonstrated unequivocally the essential nature of boron and her work has been quoted in scientific papers relatively recently. From September 1928 to January 1929 Katherine was seconded to the Experimentalfaltet in Stockholm, Sweden, where she worked with Professor Lundegardh, another plant researcher. She very much enjoyed her time in Sweden and later named the house she built 'Visby' in memory of happy times visiting Visby in Gotland.

Katherine's fastidious and scrupulously careful research earned her a Doctorate of Science from London University in 1937. For example, she insisted that those who entered her glasshouse should always wash their hands first, to avoid contamination. She continued to investigate the role of other elements in

the growth of plants, assisting Winifred Brenchley with the Broadbalk study of weed growth in winter wheat and also looking at the growth of weeds in grass as part of the Park Grass Experiment, a

study began in 1856 and continues to this day. She concentrated on the weeds growing in the experimental wheat plots at Rothamsted, studying what affected their germination; for example, the effect of temperature, climate and different soils. She also experimented with seedling growth. Throughout her time at Rothamsted she exchanged information with other scientists around the world and spoke at scientific conferences in Britain and abroad.

Katherine never married (there was a severe shortage of young men after World War I), but she cultivated many other interests and enjoyed the company of her four nieces and eleven great-nieces and -nephews. Of course, she remained in close touch with her twin sister Nell, who became a physiotherapist and lived in St. Albans. She was a keen sportswoman, and in particular a tennis player; she won the Russell Cup at Rothamsted Tennis Club. She built her own house, Visby, at 15 Browning Road in Harpenden in 1935 and lived there until she moved to a retirement flat in Rothamsted Court in 1970. She enjoyed foreign travel and visited Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Latvia and Italy among other places. She had an enthusiasm for art and history and enjoyed visiting historic houses. Of course, she was a keen gardener and a great fan of the Chelsea Flower Show. She also took an active interest in politics, in particular events such as the General Strike in 1926 and, of course, the outbreaks and progress of both the world wars that she lived through. During World War II she opened her house to evacuees (a mother and child) and later received a commendation certificate from the Queen for this work.

Katherine retired in 1957, after which she volunteered at the Parish Office of St. Nicholas' church in Harpenden, where she had been a regular worshipper for many years. She is remembered as a modest, unassuming, quiet and retiring person, who was admired for her strength of character and fortitude in adversity. She died on 3rd July 1993, having moved to Sundridge House in St. Albans some years before, and is commemorated on her parents' gravestone in St. Nicholas' churchyard.

Katherine Warington would have been absolutely amazed to know that a school was to be named after her!





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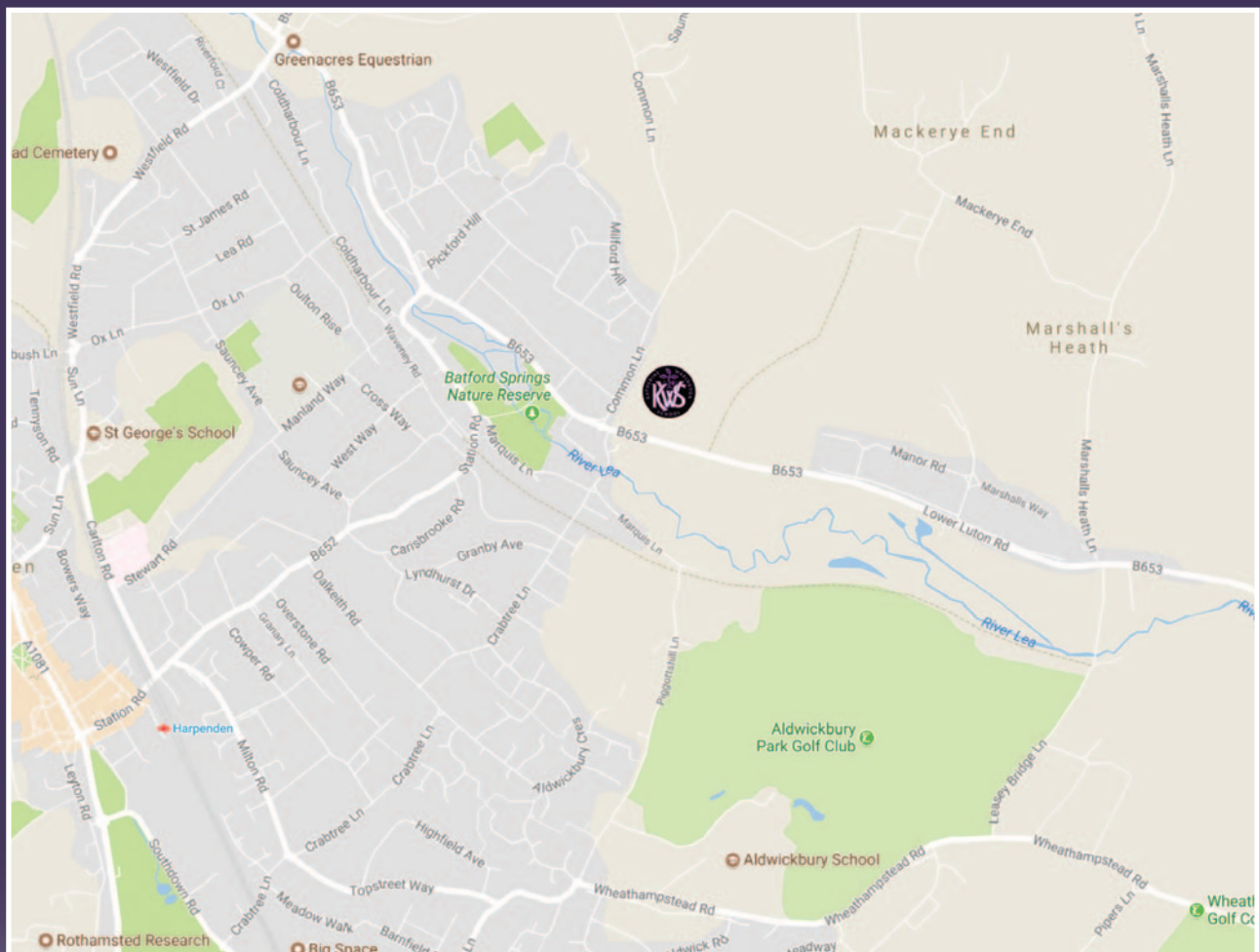
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