



Issue 121 - 16.01.26



Heads up

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful Christmas break and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It was a joy to welcome our students back to school over the past fortnight; there is a fantastic energy across the school as we settle into the Spring term of 2026.

The start of a new calendar year is always a time for reflection and renewed ambition. This was at the heart of my headteacher's assembly, in the first week back, where we focused on character and the continuous drive to be better people.

This week was a particularly significant one for our Year 11s as we hosted the KWSixth Open Evening. It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces, as well as prospective students from the wider community, exploring what our Sixth Form has to offer. The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement and ambition. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our current KWSixth students and staff who acted as ambassadors; their passion for their subjects and their pride in our school truly shone through.

At Katherine Warrington, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school where every individual is valued. This ethos was in full display this week as our Year 7 students participated in a workshop led by the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). The session provided a vital opportunity for our students to build empathy and gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of those living with sight loss, including students who attend KWS. Seeing our Year 7s engage so thoughtfully and maturely with the facilitators was a proud moment for me, reinforcing our commitment to developing well-rounded, compassionate citizens.

On a personal note, it was a genuine pleasure to attend the Harpenden and Wheathampstead 76th Gang Show. It was an incredible showcase of local talent, and I was delighted to see so many KWS students performing on stage. The confidence, talent, and teamwork displayed by our students were truly inspiring. Whether they were singing, dancing, or acting, they represented the school and themselves with distinction. To everyone who took part well done, we are immensely proud of you.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we embark on this new year together. a reminder that key dates for the year are available on our website

<https://kwschool.co.uk/calendar/>

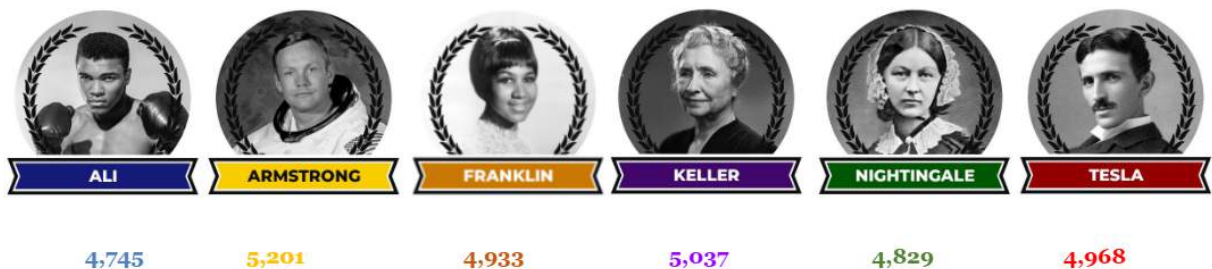
We are all looking forward to another term of achievement and community spirit.

Best wishes,

David Martin
Headteacher

House Points

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



[View All News](#)

Degree Apprenticeships Event for 6th Form Students

For 6th Form Students, Parents, and Carers: The University of Hertfordshire is hosting an in-person event on Tuesday, 10th February to help you navigate the world of degree apprenticeships. This is an excellent opportunity to demystify the process and explore everything the route has to offer, from application tips and funding details to current career opportunities. Details and a link ...

[Read more](#)

KWS Sport



Athletics Special mention to Year 11 students, Darci M and Jesse G, for competing in the south of England athletics championships at Lea Valley on Sunday. Darci did very well to progress to the semi finals of the 200m, competing against over 70 athletes in the event. Meanwhile, Jesse claimed a new personal best with a massive jump of 1.93m ...

[Read more](#)

Braille Event in the Library

We had a very exciting visit in the library this week, which really engaged our year 7 students and introduced them to the fascinating world of Braille. Braille is a tactile writing system used by blind or visually impaired people, allowing them to access books and other written materials. We were delighted to welcome Lara Marshall, Library Engagement Manager for ...



[Read more](#)

Invitation to EDI Parent Forum

Dear parents/carers, As part of the KWS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) vision, you are invited to our EDI Parent Forum, with myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). This platform allows parents/carers to share their experiences at KWS and provide feedback on our EDI delivery. We ask for your input in making KWS more inclusive and equitable ...

[Read more](#)

Absence Reporting Reminder

Absence Reporting Reminder This is an important reminder that it is a parent/guardian's key responsibility to report your child's absence due to illness, urgent appointments or other reasons by 8.30am on the first day of absence and every subsequent day thereafter. Our preferred method for reporting absence is using the Arbor Parent Portal App (instructions shown below). Absences can also be ...



[Read more](#)

Attendance Rewards - Autumn Term



Attendance Rewards The school is keen to reward good attendance and has introduced some additional incentives to promote positive attendance. Every half term the form who has the best attendance will receive some sweets from their form tutor (allergies & intolerance taken into consideration) and extra house points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. All students with 100% attendance over ...

[Read more](#)

A Midsummer Night's Dream: Tickets now on sale!

Katherine Warrington School proudly presents a fun, fresh and magical production of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Join us for an evening of comedy, chaos and fairy mischief as four young lovers, a band of enthusiastic amateur actors, and a whole host of magical creatures collide in the enchanted forest. Our production mixes Shakespeare's classic story with modern humour, lively music, exciting ...

[Read more](#)

Trustee News

The Trustees would like to warmly welcome all students back to school for the start of a new term. We hope everyone had a restful break and is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

This term, members of the Board of Trustees will be taking part in learning walks to see lessons in action, talk with staff and students, and better understand daily life at KWS. These visits help us learn more about how the school is developing and how we can best support its continued success.

Alongside witnessing the students' hard work and enthusiasm in their lessons, we are also very much looking forward to coming to see the whole school production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the end of January. It's lovely to have a bit of fun fairy magic to look forward to at the end of this dark winter month!

The Trustees

KWS Vacancies

We have no current vacancies, but please keep an eye on our website and mynewterm.

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

Tuesday 20th January - Year 7 Parents Evening

Wednesday 21st January - Year 11 Synagogue Trip 1/2 Year Group
Thursday 22nd January - Year 13 Reports Home
Thursday 22nd January - Year 11 Synagogue Trip 1/2 Year group
Monday 26th January - Intermediate Maths Challenge
Tuesday 27th January - Year 8 KS4 Options Evening
Monday 2nd February - 6th Form Application Deadline
Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February - Year 12 Mocks
Wednesday 4th February - Year 7 Cisco Workshops
Wednesday 4th February - DofE Bronze Twilight Training 3/3
Thursday 5th February - Year 8 Reports Home
Thursday 5th February - Year 12 Oxbridge Information Evening
Tuesday 10th February - Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th February - Year 11 Munich Trip
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February - HALF TERM
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February - Year 11 Core Mocks
Tuesday 24th February - Year 12 HE Evening
Thursday Thursday 26th February - Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Notices

Oaklands Open Events - February 2026

Upcoming Trips

Enrichment Week 2026: A Flying Start!

As the dust settles on the launch of EW26, we want to extend a huge thank you to all our families for their engagement and patience. Launching 28 unique trips across three days for over 800 students is a monumental logistical challenge. Despite a few minor system hiccups, we are off to a fantastic start with almost 1,200 trip places already confirmed!

While many of our excursions filled up instantly, we still have a few remaining spots on some of our most popular flagship trips. If your child hasn't secured their place yet, now is the time to act!

Current availability includes, but not limited to:

- Climb the O2: A thrilling urban mountaineering experience with breathtaking views of the capital.
- Chessington World of Adventures: A day of high-octane thrills, roller coasters, and wildlife.
- Willen Lake: Perfect for those who love the outdoors, featuring water sports and team-building activities.

Important Updates:

- Battlefields Residential - places will be confirmed on Tuesday next week

- Thorpe Park - we are working on the possibility of extending the capacity for this trip, and hope to have an answer for you next week.

We are incredibly excited to see the students step outside the classroom and take part in these memorable experiences this summer. Thank you for your continued support in making Enrichment Week a success.

Careers

We're delighted to share some fantastic career opportunities for you and your students to Digdata in 2026.

1. Virtual Work Experience Opportunities

We've collaborated with **Google** to bring virtual work experience opportunities to your students on the **28th and 29th January**. These sessions will be hosted on Zoom outside of school hours and do not require any teacher / career leader attendance.

FIRST STEP - suitable for students in Year Groups 7-9 England & Wales, S1-S3 Scotland, 8-10 Northern Ireland

Wednesday 28th January at 4.30 pm (virtual session hosted on Zoom)

Want to be a YouTuber? Dig into the data sources that could make you go viral

- A 45-minute briefing with the Google team
- Complete the career challenge at your own pace
- Certificate awarded on completion
- **Register now!** (student link)

NEXT STEP - suitable for students in Year Groups 10-13 England & Wales, S4-S6 Scotland, 11-14 Northern Ireland

Thursday 29th January at 5pm (virtual session hosted on Zoom)

Google joins forces with Gen Z Creators to launch the Pixel 10!

- A 45-minute virtual briefing with the Google team
- Complete the career challenge at your own pace
- Certificate awarded on completion
- **Register now!** (student link)

National Apprenticeship Week - 9th to 15th February 2026

Here are some webinars you can take a look at:

Kickstart Your Career in Audit: Real Stories from NAO Apprentices - 10th February 6:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register your interest.

Apprenticeships in Law: Opportunities and Insights from TLT - 11th February 6:30 - 7:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register your interest.

Your Future in Health & Safety: From Film Sets and Festival Stages to Sports Arenas! - 12th February 6:30 - 7:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register your interest.

All Things Law: Land Your Dream Apprenticeship in Law - 5th March 6:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register your interest.

Non KWS Events/Publicity

Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops

**Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops
January – March 2026**

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered with a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

All workshops are currently being delivered online via Microsoft Teams. For more information about what each workshop covers and to book a place onto a workshop, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787>



Workshop	Date & Time
<p>Emotional Wellbeing (For Young People 11-16) A workshop focused on adolescents managing their emotional wellbeing and things parents/carers can do to help.</p>	<p>Thursday 22nd January 6-8 pm Thursday 12th March 6-8 pm</p>
<p>Adolescent Self-Esteem and Resilience A workshop focused on adolescents improving their self-esteem and resilience and what parents/carers can do to help.</p>	<p>Tuesday 27th January 6-8 pm Tuesday 3rd March 6-8 pm</p>
<p>Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem and Resilience A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their self-esteem and resilience.</p>	<p>Tuesday 24th February 10-12 pm</p>
<p>Supporting with Sleep Difficulties This workshop focuses on supporting children and adolescents with managing their sleep difficulties and things parents/carers can do to help.</p>	<p>Tuesday 3rd February 6-8 pm</p>
<p>Developing your Child's Emotional Literacy A workshop focused on parents supporting their child with developing emotional literacy.</p>	<p>Thursday 8th January 6-8 pm Tuesday 10th February 10-12 pm Tuesday 24th March 6-8 pm</p>
<p>General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents/Carers A workshop focused on parents supporting their child's general emotional wellbeing and ability to emotionally regulate.</p>	<p>Tuesday 13th January 10-12 pm Thursday 19th February 6-8 pm Wednesday 18th March 10-12 am</p>

To access the recorded **Emotionally Based School Avoidance Webinar** please visit:
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/service/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-21/>

Courses: Phone 07512 709 556 to book

6-Weeks	Location	ID	Dates 2026	Day	Time
Talking Additional Needs	Online	796	3rd Feb to 17th Mar	Tue	9.45-11.15am
Talking Additional Needs NEW	Online	800	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Families	Online	798	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	9.45-11.15am
Talking Anxiety in Families	Online	801	4th Feb to 18th Mar	Wed	9.45-11.30am
Talking Teens	Online	803	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Teens NEW	Online	802	11th Mar to 29th Apr	Wed	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Dads	Online	807	2nd Feb to 16th Mar	Mon	7.45-9.15pm

No sessions during school holidays

DSPL7 Coffee Mornings

SEND 25/26 Coffee Mornings

DSPL7 & Vista St Albans+ host coffee mornings where School and SEND Family Workers are available to support parents / carers of children with SEND regardless of a diagnosis. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead and other professionals may also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend this drop in session.

Dates: Mornings on 8th October, 25th November, 28th January, 17th March, 13th May & 30th June

Time: 9:15 - 11:30am

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. The Hub is to the right hand side of the school building at the bottom of the car park. **There is no parking available onsite, but 3 hours free parking is available nearby in Morrisons supermarket.**

Appointments

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there is also the opportunity to reserve a 20-30 minute appointment to speak to the following professionals between 9:30am - 12:00pm.

To book an appointment:

Please email
admin@dspl7.org.uk

Dates	Professionals attending
Wednesday 8 th October	Thelma Mugovera - Ask Sali (EHCP advice)
Tuesday 25 th November	Harri Nicholas - NESSIE - Anxiety, Mental health & EBSNA
Wednesday 28 th January	Laura Tarrant - ASD & PDA
Tuesday 17 th March	Jess Pickle - First Steps, eating disorders, ARFID
Wednesday 13 th May	Tanya Suri - Speech & language
Tuesday 30 th June	Elaine Bridle- ADHD

Vista contact details: **EMAIL:** info@vistasupportservices.org.uk

WEBSITE: vistasupportservices.org.uk **TEL:** 01727 519128

DSPL7 contact details: 01727 519229 admin@dspl7.org.uk www.dspl7.org.uk

HAVE A MINUTE?

Are You a Parent or Carer of a Child from an Asian Background?

We want to hear about your experiences accessing mental health support for your child

1

Scan the QR Code on this Poster



2

Fill Out a Quick 5 Minute Survey



3

Have Your Voice Heard



Any Questions?
Reach out to us on:
sandbox@mindier.co.uk

Delivered by

The Sandbox

Free online mental health support
for young people



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StyWise



Jigsaw Performing Arts Schools



DRAMA SINGING DANCE

JIGSAW PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS



Classes for 3–18 years

Harpenden

Sunday mornings at
Katherine Warrington School

NEW!

Jigsaw Jumpers parent & child class for
12 months to 3 years, 9am–9:45am

TWO WEEK TRIAL AVAILABLE. BOOK NOW!

T: 01923 701803 W: jigsaw-arts.co.uk





POSH FROCKS

EVENING & PROM

Prom season is here!

We want to offer schools 10% discount
for the month of January!

Quote **SCHOOL10** to get your discount!



📞 07771066060

📍 163 High Street, Rickmansworth, WD3 1AY

Is your house leaking heat & money?



Use the Thermal Imaging Camera for **FREE** to:

- Identify draughts and cold spots.
- Review radiator efficiency
- Check insulation

- Learn how to use the camera in an online information session
- Pay refundable deposit
- Borrow the camera for 24 hours for **FREE**



More info and booking:

sustainablestalbans.org/efficient-buildings/

BeeZee Families

BeeZee FAMILIES

Changing habits keep you healthy...all year long!

Our free BeeZee Families programme is here to help you feel healthier and happier as a family.

Top Tips to brave those winter mornings

Keep hydrated: This is a sure-fire way to get our bodies fired up in the mornings. A fresh glass of water will give your body the boost it needs to start the day.

Breakfast: There is a reason it holds the title as the most important meal of the day! Make sure little (and grown up) tums don't leave the house empty, it's important to have a good healthy breakfast to give our bodies the energy they need.

Sleep: It's important no matter your age to get enough sleep and sticking to regular sleep patterns can help support this.

Healthy lunch boxes

Keeping school lunch boxes interesting can be a challenge at the best of times so we appreciate how hard it is to make sure they are kept healthy too.

But healthy doesn't have to be a chore, it can actually make life much easier!

Fruit is a great way to give little ones a boost of energy and if bought in packs will generally last the whole week and keep costs down too. A satsuma, banana or small handful of grapes will add a tasty (and vibrant) addition to their lunch boxes.

Fresh air fix

It's tough during the colder months to find ways to get our much-needed Vitamin D. Fresh air is a great way to improve both our physical and mental well-being and even short bursts of outdoor time can make a big difference.

Try swapping the car or bus for a short walk from time to time or get the little ones wrapped up and outside for a quick play in the park.

Want more healthy lifestyle support? Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link

www.musik.co.uk

Hertfordshire

*Our website is designed for families with children aged 5 and up.

St Albans Symphony Orchestra

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026, 7:30PM

Jubilee Hall, St Albans High School AL1 3SJ

**DeFalla Three-Cornered
Hat (suite No.2)**

**Damase Flute Concerto,
soloist Hattie Jolly**

**Rachmaninov
Symphony No.2**



Conductor: Bill Carslake
Leader: Charlotte Fairbairn
www.saso.org.uk
📍 St Albans Symphony Orchestra
@ Stalbanssymphony
Registered Charity No. 1038283

Tickets: £18, £5 students, £2 accompanied children. **Book at** www.ticketsource.co.uk **or via** www.saso.org.uk/concerts.
Email tickets@saso.org.uk **or call** 07753 742543 **to reserve, or buy on the door.**

Parent Support Group



**YOUTH
TALK**

**Are you worried
about your
child?**

**Would you like
some help &
support?**

**If so, why not
join us**

Get in contact

01727 868684 

info@youthtalk.org.uk 

Youth Talk is running a series of groups for parents of young people 13-25 in St Albans District who are looking for support and help. The group will enable parents to share experiences, learn from each other, offer mutual support and discuss the challenges that come with parenting young people who are growing up.

The group will run for 6 weeks on Saturdays 10.00am-11.15am for parents of young people who are not already accessing Youth Talk or other mental health services.

Two experienced therapists will facilitate the group to provide a safe, confidential, reflective space to explore concerns and ideas together. A commitment to attending all 6 sessions is helpful to build a sense of cohesion and trust.

The group will be run in Southdown, Harpenden, where there is plenty of parking and close to other transport links.

Interested in joining? You can email us at info@youthtalk.org.uk, call 01727 868684 or use this QR code:



**Free,
confidential
support**





[Unsubscribe](#)