



## Issue 123 - 13.2.26



### Heads up

Dear KWS Family,

As we reach the end of this busy and productive half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic energy and achievements we've seen across Katherine Warrington School. It has been a period filled with academic rigor, community spirit, and a fair share of fun.

We were delighted to celebrate our Year 7 and 8 students who have achieved Academic Status. As a reward for their hard work, these students enjoyed a truly inspiring session in the library with Steve Nallon, author of *The Time That Never Was*. It was a privilege to watch our students working on story creation with such a creative mind.

For those looking to join their peers, the half term break provides the perfect opportunity to gain Academic Status. Students can do this by completing a subject academic course. Full details and links are available on the school's website.

Our Year 7 Disco was a resounding success! It was wonderful to see our newest students enjoying themselves. A huge thank you to the KWF for their impeccable organisation and to the staff who gave up their evening to supervise.

This week, we also hosted our EDI Forum. I would like to extend my gratitude to the parents and carers who attended; your feedback is invaluable. It was a great opportunity to hear what we are doing well and, crucially, how we can continue to strengthen our equality, diversity, and inclusion goals.

As we move into the break a reminder to stock up on the lemon juice for Shrove Tuesday (17th Feb) with the following day marking the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Ramadan too begins

during the holiday, we are already looking forward to our Community Iftar at KWS on the 3rd March. It promises to be a wonderful evening of reflection and togetherness.

For our Year 11 students, the upcoming core subjects mock exams will take place the first week back. I urge you to utilise this half term break effectively. Consistent revision now will not only support your performance in the mocks but will build the essential foundation for your final exams this summer.

Finally, we look forward to World Book Day shortly after we return. It is worth reflecting on why we place such a high premium on reading at Katherine Warrington School. Reading is not merely a functional skill for the classroom; it is the single most effective tool for expanding a young person's horizon. While reading directly impacts academic performance; improving vocabulary, comprehension, and writing flair, its benefits extend far beyond grades. Engaging with a narrative fosters empathy, allowing students to step into the shoes of characters from different cultures, eras, and walks of life.

I encourage all our students to take a break from their screens this week. Harpenden and our surrounding areas are home to fantastic local libraries that are free to use. Whether it's a gripping thriller, a historical biography, or a graphic novel, the goal is simply to find a story that resonates.

I wish all our students, staff, and families a restful and refreshing half term break.

**David Martin**  
**Headteacher**

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## House Points

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



[View All News](#)

## Sixth Form Mentoring Programme (Period 7)



A huge thank you to all our Sixth Form students, along with our Year 11 and Year 10 participants, who have taken part in the mentoring programme running during Period 7 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays this term. It has been fantastic to see positive relationships develop between mentors and mentees, and to witness the excellent work produced during these weekly ...

[Read more](#)

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## Student Council Update

Over the half-term break, KWS held its second round of Student Council meetings. A big thank you to our fantastic Student Council representatives - with our Year 9 team pictured here - as well as our Head Students, who confidently chaired and led the meetings. There were many excellent suggestions and thoughtful feedback on how we can continue to ...



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## Year 10 Prefects



We are delighted to announce our new team of Year 10 prefects, who will begin their roles after the half-term break. Students completed a rigorous application process, which included writing a letter outlining why they wanted the role and what they would bring to the team, followed by a group interview. All candidates performed exceptionally well, making the selection process ...

[Read more](#)

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# KWS Sport

Inclusive Sports This week we had some medal success, as various students competed in a county table cricket competition at Beaumont School. The team ended up winning the competition and progressed through to the London and Thames Valley regional finals in Aylesbury. If they progress through that competition, they then get to compete at Lord's (the home of cricket). Well ...



[Read more](#)

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# Oxbridge Information Evening



On a dark and wet evening at the start of February, a large group of Year 11 and 12 students, with their parents/carers, gathered in the library to find out more about the process of applying to study at Oxford or Cambridge Universities, and the support we offer here to our prospective Oxbridge candidates. During the evening, students were also ...

[Read more](#)

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# Colour in the Library

As we roll into the half term break we've seen the library transformed into a very colourful place. The weather may continue to be dull, but the Library is lit up with the rainbow colours of LGBT+ History month, and also our wonderful Lunar New Year decorations. Our book displays feature the best of our LGBT+ books, both fiction and ...



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## KWS Trampoline Squad



On 25th January, we saw the second round of the schools competition in Cardiff, Wales. This was the Zonal round, and there was a lot of tough competition - but the team smashed it as always. Theo V in Year 7 came first as an individual and was joined by Dylan G and Archie D (both in Year 7) as ...

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## Lunar New Year

This week has seen an array of celebrations marking Lunar New Year, which takes place during the half term break. In the library Miss Ching has been leading students in an arts activity, and Herts Catering have put on an exciting Lunar New Year themed menu. We wish a joyous Lunar New Year, to all of our KWS families who ...

[Read more](#)



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## KWS Talent Show: Thursday 26th March

I am delighted to confirm that the inaugural KWS Talent Show will finally take to the stage on Thursday 26th March, and I could not be more excited about what promises to be a brilliant celebration of creativity, confidence and student voice. After an incredibly busy autumn and spring term filled with performances, rehearsals and events, this feels like the ...

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## Spring Concert: 11th March 2026 7pm to 9pm

We are delighted to announce that our Spring Concert will take place on Wednesday 11th March, and it promises to be a fantastic evening of music-making from across the school. This year's concert will showcase the breadth and talent of our musicians, with performances from our orchestra, choir and soloists across multiple year groups. Highlights will include powerful orchestral arrangements ...

[Read more](#)

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## Cisco led programming workshop

Last week, the Computing department was delighted to host Emma and Emily from Cisco Systems who led a programming workshop for year 7 students. Students were challenged to code their own Rock-Paper-Scissors game using Python. They discussed their role at Cisco and what the company does. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see how important Computing is and ...



[Read more](#)

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## A Midsummer Night's Dream

Last week, the KWS Performing Arts department took a joyful leap into Shakespeare for the very first time, and what a moment it was. Our production of A Midsummer Night's Dream played to three sold-out audiences and was met with fantastic feedback throughout its run. It was an evening of laughter, energy and magic, and a true celebration of what ...



[Read more](#)

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## **KWS Vacancies**

Here are our current vacancies:

Head of KS5 Maths: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145890/EDV-2026-KWS-00660>

Teacher of Mathematics (Teaching Further Maths A-Level desirable):

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145890/EDV-2026-KWS-07926>

Finance Manager: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145890/EDV-2026-KWS-92383>

Head of Physics: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145890/EDV-2026-KWS-67990>

## **Katherine Warington Association of Friends (Kwaf)**

If you would like to get involved and support your school's parents' association, please email

[kwaf@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:kwaf@kwschool.co.uk) or look out for updates on **Facebook@kwafkws**.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up and follow us!

If you have any requests regarding the Kwaf second-hand uniform, please email

[uniform.kwaf@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:uniform.kwaf@kwschool.co.uk) and not the main Kwaf email.

## **Upcoming Events**

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

Thursday 26th February - Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Thursday 5th March - Year 12 Reports Home

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 5th March - Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 9th to Thursday 19th March - Year 8 KS4 Options Selection

Monday 9th to Friday 13th March - Year 9 option Change Window

Tuesday 10th March - Year 12 HE Evening

Wednesday 11th March - Talent Show

Thursday 12th March - Year 7 Shakespeare Performance Day

Thursday 12th March - Primary School Netball Tournament Hosted by KWS

Tuesday 17th March - Big Dance Competition

Wednesday 18th March - Year 12 Parents Evening

Thursday 19th March - Year 11 Reports Home

Thursday 19th March - Whole School Photograph

Thursday 19th March - Year 11 and 13 Single Photos

Saturday 21st March - DofE Bronze Training Day

Thursday 26th March - Spring Concert

Friday 27th March - Last Day of Term Early Finish 12:05pm

Sunday 29th March to Monday 6th April - China Trip

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April - EASTER HOLIDAYS

## **Notices**

Careers: Construction Apprenticeships Start in Aug/Sept

## Careers

Upcoming **\*Future Skills course: Careers in STEM** that is taking place over the February half term (16th-21st) We will be closing the applications soon and don't want your students to miss out on this opportunity. (Direct application link [here](#)).

As a reminder this course is open to Year 9 & 10 / S3 & S4 students of all abilities and is a fantastic opportunity for them to explore STEM Careers in four key pathways and gain **a nationally recognised accreditation**, similar to the DoE, that they can use as evidence of their experience to support future applications and career journeys.

The course will include a **series of live sessions**.

At the end of the course, students will develop their own action plan for how they can succeed in a STEM career.

### **FREE Virtual Work Experience (WEX) is now available**

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE ZOOM Get Into Medicine conference dates:

Saturday 7th February, 9am - 1:30pm

Sunday 22nd February, 9am - 1:30pm

Register here: Medicine: <https://medicmentor.org/get-into-medicine-conference-signup/>

For aspiring Dentists: FREE LIVE ZOOM Get Into Dentistry conference date:

Sunday 1st March, 9am - 1:30pm

Register here: Dentistry: <https://dental-mentor.org/get-into-dentistry-conference-signup/>

## **A Level Maths and Psychology Revision Day in Leeds - February Half-Term**

*19 February 2025 - 10am - 1pm Maths & 2pm - 5pm Psychology*

### **Event Details:**

A-Level Maths & Psychology

**Venue:** Eversheds Sutherland Office, Leeds

**Online:** Webinar available for students outside of the region or who cannot commute

**Date:** 19 February 2025

- Maths Session: 10:00am – 1:00pm
- Psychology Session: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Cost:** Absolutely free

**Please apply using the links below to register your place for your preferred session:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PowerUpLeeds>**

## **Tesco Apprenticeships:**

Information: **<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/employers/tesco/>**

Roles: **<https://www.tesco.com/careers/en-GB/early-careers/apprenticeships/maintenance>**

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## **Trips**

ENRICHMENT WEEK 2026

Any student without a trip booked for each day of EW26 ( WEDNESDAY / THURSDAY / FRIDAY ), will be allocated to the in school register. This will happen on Monday 16th February

Please check Evolve to see your confirmed sign ups. If you have a missing day, please email "**[trips@kwschool.co.uk](mailto:trips@kwschool.co.uk)**" to confirm your choices before this date.

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## **Non KWS Events/Publicity**

We are delighted to invite your school community to get behind an exciting celebration of young musical talent as Katherine Warrington School hosts its first ever Battle of the Bands.

Taking place on Wednesday 19 March, 6.00pm–10.00pm at Katherine Warrington School, this high-energy evening will bring together student bands from local schools to perform live in front of an enthusiastic audience of peers, families and music lovers. The event is being delivered in association with Sir John Lawes School and the much-loved Harpenden Festival on the Field, giving it a real festival feel and a fantastic sense of occasion.

# FESTIVAL ON THE FIELD PRESENTS: BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Pet Wasp Performing at 2024 Festival on the Field

19 March, 6pm-10pm  
Katherine Warrington School

2 winning school bands will be invited to  
perform at the 2026 Harpenden Festival on  
the Field!

Tickets £5 + booking fee online  
£6.50 at the door

Tickets and Info:



School Bands: To enter contact Ben  
Heineke at [heineke02@gmail.com](mailto:heineke02@gmail.com)

**FESTIVAL**   
on the field



[www.festivalonthefield.co.uk/](http://www.festivalonthefield.co.uk/)

# Pilates Classes for Teens

Strength, posture, mobility and confidence in a supportive environment

**Mondays at 6:00 PM**

**NEW 7:00 PM CLASS**

Starting after half term

**Begins Monday 23rd February**

Suitable for the **Duke of Edinburgh Award**  
(Physical Section)

For more information please contact **Slavica**  
**07912 071406**  
**[pilatesharpenden.com](http://pilatesharpenden.com)**



# ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



## INTERNET SAFETY DAY 2026: SMART TECH, SAFE CHOICES – EXPLORING THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI

### INTERNET MATTERS: SAFELY USING AI

Internet Matters has produced helpful guide full of hints and tips to support parents, carers & professionals with safe use of AI:

[How to use AI safely with children | Internet Matters](#)



### INTERNET MATTERS: SET UP SAFE GUIDE

Setting up devices safely works best when you layer up parental controls across networks, devices and apps alongside regular conversations.

This guide shows you how to layer up in a simple, manageable way, so safety grows with your child: [Layer up for online safety: Parental controls guide](#)

### NSPCC: SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Learn more about AI content and tools, and discover ways to help your children stay safe:

[Artificial intelligence safety tips for parents | NSPCC](#)

### SNAPCHAT: MY AI

**How do I turn off My AI on Snapchat?**

**My AI** is a chatbot available on Snapchat that is automatically added to all Snapchatters' contact list. Only Snapchat+ subscribers can unpin or remove My AI from their contact list.

However, all users can take steps to remove My AI data regularly.

11.30am  
 - 1pm

## Frogmore Foodbank Holy Trinity Church

<p><u>January</u>            Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></p>	<p><u>February</u>            Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>March</u>            Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><u>April</u>            Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>            Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>May</u>            Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>June</u>            Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><u>July</u>            Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p><u>August</u>            Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>September</u>            Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>            Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><u>October</u>            Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>November</u>            Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>            Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><u>December</u>            Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></p>

[www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.stalbansdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

01727 613019

✉ [info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@stalbandsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

 @StAlbansDistrictFB
  @st\_a\_and\_dist\_foodbank

## FILM COMPETITION

### “WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO ME?”

Are you great at making short videos or have a passion for writing, music or filmmaking? Perhaps you're part of a local club or group that you want to shout about? Or you'd just love to see your name in lights? Then this competition could be for you.

Harpenden Town Council invites local young people up to the age of 25 to enter. The theme of the film should be:

**‘What’s Important to Me?’**

Find out more about the awards categories and entry criteria by viewing the QR code or checking out our website:

[www.harpenden.gov.uk/whats-important](http://www.harpenden.gov.uk/whats-important)



With support from:



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# School Newsletter

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