



Issue 131 - 17.7.26



Heads up

Dear KWS Family,

As we reach the end of another remarkable academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible energy, dedication, and community spirit that defines Katherine Warrington School. The last few weeks alone have been a vibrant showcase of everything that makes our school so special, from welcoming our future students to celebrating the massive achievements of our oldest. We hosted our Year 6 Sports Transition Event, giving incoming students a fantastic opportunity to experience our sports facilities and build confidence. This was followed by a dedicated Year 5 Primary School Event and our New Year 7 Parents Evening, where we were delighted to meet so many families. The transition period culminated with our school-wide Transition Day. We hope all our joining students felt inspired and are looking forward to starting their journey with us in September.

We were absolutely thrilled to finally host our annual Sports Days this week, which had previously been postponed due to the extreme hot weather. It was well worth the wait. We had a fantastic couple of days of fierce house competition, outstanding inclusion, and brilliant community spirit. It was wonderful to see our students cheering each other on, showing great sportsmanship, and giving their absolute best for their houses.

Our community was treated to two spectacular evenings of music and performance at our annual Summer Recital Evenings on Thursday, 9th July, and Friday 10th July. The dedication, practice, and bravery shown by all the student performers made for truly memorable nights. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to support our talented musicians, and to the staff who helped orchestrate the events.

It has been a milestone fortnight for our senior students, highlighting both celebration and service. Our Year 13s celebrated the conclusion of their journey with us at a spectacular prom, a wonderful evening looking back on their fantastic achievements and saying a fond farewell. Demonstrating their commitment to the wider community, our KWSixth Year 12 students hosted the KWS Community Tea Party. It was wonderful to see our students being such excellent ambassadors for the school.

On Wednesday, 8th July, our Year 8 students were privileged to hear a profound Holocaust Survivor Talk, beautifully led and introduced by our Year 12 student leaders. This was an incredibly powerful educational experience that brought history to life and offered our students invaluable lessons in resilience, tolerance, and empathy. We are immensely proud of the maturity our students showed during this talk.

Our students have been testing their limits and building lifelong skills in our outdoor education programs: DofE Bronze Expedition (July 3rd–4th): We saw the successful deployment and completion of the Bronze expedition over this weekend. DofE Gold Expedition (Starting Monday, 6th July): Following hot on their heels, our senior adventurers set off for their rigorous Gold expedition. Congratulations to all students involved for their exceptional teamwork, grit, and perseverance in the great outdoors.

A huge thank you to all the families who have already supported the launch of our KWS Enrichment Fund with either a monthly or one-off donation! You can find out more about the Enrichment Fund [here](#). Your support directly funds "Period 7" activities, specialist equipment, and school trip subsidies via our Opportunity Fund, ensuring high-quality extracurricular experiences for every student. If you haven't already and would like to make a donation please [Click Here](#) Don't forget to tick the Gift Aid box to boost your contribution by 25% at no extra cost to you.

Whether our students have been racing on the track, hiking through the wilderness, performing on stage, or preparing for their next big steps in life, the end of year has highlighted the very best of KWS.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our incredible staff, whose hard work makes these opportunities possible, and to you, our parents and carers, for your unwavering support. Have a wonderful, safe, and restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

David Martin
Headteacher

House Points

Please see the post below regarding final standings this term.

KWSixth Summer Tea Party 3rd July 2026



It was a pleasure for our year 12 students to organise our second KWSixth community tea party for local senior citizens. We enjoyed a game of bingo, performances from students across the school and lunch served by the year 12 ambassadors. It was a fantastic occasion. A massive thank you to the KWS canteen staff and the year 12s for ...

[Read more](#)

House Cup 2025-26: Final Standings!

What an incredible year of energy, team spirit, and fierce competition we have had for the 2025-26 House Competition! From athletic prowess on the rounders field to the absolute concentration required for the classic egg and spoon race, not to mention the brilliant display of creativity in the Talent Show and the Christmas Card competition—it has been wonderful to see ...



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Work experience with Parliament



Last week, Jess H and I had the incredible opportunity to undertake a three-day work experience placement with our local Member of Parliament, Victoria Collins MP, and her dedicated team. Working alongside the office staff and students from other schools, we were fully immersed in parliamentary politics and local campaigning. We began our first day by working on constituency casework. ...

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Meeting the Wheathampstead u3a group

Some members of our year 12 history A level class went to meet the Wheathampstead u3a group on Wednesday afternoon, to discuss their experiences growing up in the 1940's and 1950's. It was a wonderful occasion and lovely to see our sixth formers interacting with older members of the local community as well as learning from their experiences. Thank you ...

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KWS Enrichment Fund



At Katherine Warrington School, we pride ourselves on providing an education that goes far beyond the classroom. From the vibrant 'Period 7' activities and competitive sports fixtures to the life-changing experiences of our school trips, these opportunities are what make the KWS experience unique. However, providing these high-quality experiences comes with significant costs that fall outside the core school budget. ...

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Year 5 Taster Day: A Glimpse into the Future

Last Tuesday, KWS was buzzing with an extraordinary amount of energy, curiosity, and excitement as we welcomed eight classes of Year 5 pupils to our inaugural Taster Day. Transitioning to secondary school is a major milestone and our aim was to demystify the experience and replace any worries with genuine excitement. We wanted to give these students a true sense ...



[Read more](#)

Junior & Senior Summer Recital Evenings



Last week marked a fantastic milestone for our Performing Arts faculty, as we hosted our very first Junior and Senior Recital Evenings! These special events provided a wonderful, dedicated platform for our 1:1 instrumental and vocal students to step onto the stage and showcase the incredible repertoire they have been developing this term. From our rising junior talents to our ...

[Read more](#)

Library Reading Ambassadors

Our newly appointed Reading Ambassadors have been very busy this term. They have met regularly and enjoyed looking at the results of the recent student survey regarding reading in school, and some have been brave enough to deliver the feedback in front of the whole school in assemblies. Some of the Reading Ambassadors have also designed posters to promote reading. These ...



[Read more](#)

Zero Carbon Schools Programme



We've come to the end of Zero Carbon Schools 2025-26! The whole team at Green Schools Project would like to say a huge congratulations to Katherine Warrington School for our hard work and collective action this year to improve climate education and action at our school. We were one of over 180 schools around the UK that took part. Green ...

[Read more](#)

Trustee News

As we reach the end of another fantastic year, the Trustees would like to extend warmest wishes to the Katherine Warrington School community.

This year has been a historic milestone for us, marking our very first year as a fully realised school with every single year group finally in place. It has been a joy to witness the KWS character develop, demonstrating academic excellence and great effort in the classroom, showcasing talents in sport, music, and drama, and most importantly being kind, respectful and tolerant young people. Our cohorts of GCSE and A-Level & BTEC students have worked incredibly hard, and we look forward to hearing of their exam successes when results are released this August. Looking to the future, Trustees are thrilled to support the launch of the KWS Enrichment Fund, an exciting initiative that will allow school to provide opportunities for our students in the years to come.

A milestone year like this is only possible because of the people who support and shape our school - thank you all. On behalf of the board, I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing trustees whose terms have concluded; your careful governance and commitment have been invaluable to our growth. We would also like to say farewell to those staff members who are moving on to new

chapters, thanking them for their hard work and wishing them all the best for the future.

Thank you to all of our families for your continued partnership, and I wish you all a restful, safe and very happy summer.

Jenny Howarth
Chair of Trustees

KWS Vacancies

We have no current vacancies.

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 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

Monday 20th to Thursday 23rd July - Disaggregated INSET days

Friday 24th July to Monday 31st August - Summer holidays

Thursday 13th August - A Level results day

Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th August - Summer School

Thursday 20th August - GCSE results day

Tuesday 1st September - INSET day

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET day

Thursday 3rd September - Year 7 and 12 start back

Friday 4th September - Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 start back

Tuesday 8th September - Year 12 Parents Information evening

Tuesday 8th September - Years 7, 10 and 12 School Photographs

Tuesday 15th September - Year 10 Parents Information evening

Friday 18th September - Early finish for students - 12:05pm ahead of open morning

Saturday 19th September - Open morning

Monday 21st September - INSET day

Tuesday 22nd September - Period 7 starts

Tuesday 22nd September - UKMT Maths challenge for girls - Years 11, 12 and 13

Friday 25th September - Harry Potter concert

Sunday 27th September to Thursday 1st October - Year 10 Spanish trip

Notices

Lockers to be emptied

Non KWS Events/Publicity

Department of Education



Department
for Education

We are the department for opportunity

Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

We need you to help spread the word. So please share details of the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme through your newsletters, school apps, and other communications to parents and carers, so that the families in your school community know about the experiences they can enjoy this summer for less.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON MP
Secretary of State for Education

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THEATRE**
ARTS

EMC
THE ERIC MORECAMBE CENTRE

FOR MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMERS
AGED 7 - 21

TIME TO LEVEL UP THIS SUMMER






SEDONA SKY
HEATHERS

JORDAN CROUCH
THE GREAT GATSBY

LUCINDA BUCKLEY
HADESTOWN

CLAIRE-MARIE HALL
OPERATION MINCEMEAT

WORK WITH WEST END STARS &
THE AWARD-WINNING BRILLIANT THEATRE CREATIVE TEAM

**WITH A LIVE PERFORMANCE
AT THE END OF THE WEEK**

MONDAY 27TH JULY - 1ST AUGUST 2026
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