

King Solomon High School Newsletter

6th October 2023, 21st Tishrei 5784

Parshat Vezot Hab'rachah



Year 9 netball team who beat St Angela's Ursuline 22-2 in the Essex Cup

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well. We have had a busy two weeks since the last newsletter. A big congratulations to our year 9 netball team who are through to the next round in the Essex Cup. This is such exciting news as this is the first time that King Solomon have entered this cup. This win is testament to the hard work, passion and resilience of our students and the teachers supporting them.

Yesterday we hosted our year 7 'Meet the Form Tutor Evening', where year 7 parents and carers got to see their child's tutor group room, find out about their child's school day and find out more about the school from the form tutor. Our morning tours for prospective year 7 students and their families were so popular that we arranged two further tours. Families are hearing that this is an exciting time for our school as we begin a new journey of school improvement.

We also hosted a 'Meet the New Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team' evening last week. This was a well attended event where I set out my vision for the school's future. The senior leadership team then answered a range of questions submitted by parents and carers in advance.

We were also delighted to welcome Rabbi Sufrin, as we do each week, for the morning prayer service. Rabbi Goodwin also visited us this week to celebrate Sukkot in our Sukkah with students.

Last week I hosted assemblies about Sukkot (celebrated last weekend) and Simchat Torah (celebrated this weekend). The word Sukkah means hut and Sukkot remembers the time when Jewish people were wandering in the desert for forty years, following their exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Sukkas (huts) were provided by G-d to offer the Jewish people protection. Sukkot is also a harvest festival. Drawing on modern day connection to Sukkot, students in the assemblies were encouraged to reflect on themes such as citizenship, belonging and homelessness.

This weekend the Jewish community will be celebrating Simchat Torah, which celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of Torah readings. Jewish people celebrate the immense spiritual joy that the Torah brings to the them. Students in the assemblies were encouraged to reflect on the importance of what brings each of them joy.

Wishing you all Shabbat Shalom, happy Simchat Torah and a lovely weekend.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Key Dates for the first half term

Thursday 12th October – extra open morning due to popular demand

Tuesday 17th October – A level & Year 11 – Drama Haters Performance

Thursday 19th October – Early close due to staff INSET. Students will be dismissed at 12.00pm

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term

Behaviour reminders

- No chewing gum allowed.
- No phones to be seen or heard anywhere on the school grounds (apart from Y12/13 who can use phones in the 6th form block).
- Blazers must be worn at all times. Teachers can give permission for blazers to be removed during lessons. Blazers may be removed while playing a sport at lunch time.
- All students must clear up after themselves in the canteen

A note from the Office

- If your child unfortunately has an accident out of school that will affect them at school (not just learning, moving from room to room and using the stairs) it is imperative that you bring your child into school and complete a risk assessment with a member of staff.
- All absences and correspondence needs to be sent via Synergy. There is a help page on our school website. Here is the link <https://kshsonline.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2022/09/Parent-Portal-Guide-for-Parents.pdf>

Simchat Torah & Shemini Atzeret

Shemini Atzeret comes after 7 days of Sukkot. On it, we celebrate Simchat Torah (“The Joy of the Torah”), since it is the day when we finish the annual Torah-reading cycle and begin a new one. It is a joyous occasion and people will celebrate by dancing and singing with the Torah in synagogue.



Spotlight on Maths

All students have settled back into their maths lessons well, showing lots of enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn. We already have a highly competitive leader board on Dr Frost timetables challenge – the students are still beating both Mrs Pointon and Mr Gerstenberg.

Year 7 – Analysing and displaying data

Year 7 students are currently looking at analysing and displaying data. They are learning how to calculate different averages, represent data on graphs and analyse results. They will be able to spot a misleading graph in the news in no time at all!

Year 8 – Area and volume

Year 8 students made an excellent start with their number unit and are now applying their number skills to area and volume. They are looking at complex 2D shapes such as trapeziums and calculating volumes of 3D shapes. We are hoping they will be able to redesign your house layout with their excellent knowledge.

Year 9 – Expressions and formulae

Year 9 have been spending time developing their algebraic skills. They have been focusing on powers, expanding, factorising, and solving. Through learning these important algebraic methods, they are developing their problem-solving skills and will be able to apply these in other subjects, such as science.

Year 10 – Algebra

Year 10 have been mastering their algebraic skills, expanding and factoring more complicated expressions and learning how to solve multiple step equations. They are also looking at sequences and learning how they are used for modelling financial problems.

Year 11 Higher – Equations and Graphs

Year 11 Higher students are applying their algebraic skills to draw graphs and solve simultaneous equations. They are using their prior knowledge of linear graphs from year 10 links to shade inequality regions generated by graphs.

Year 11 Foundation – Construction, loci and bearings

Year 11 foundation students are learning about plans and elevations and how to construct accurate drawings. They are seeing the many career paths that make use of this area of maths, such as architecture, carpentry, and construction work.

KS5 Maths and Further Maths

Year 12 and 13 are all studying pure maths, statistics and mechanics. Topics recently have included moments, quartic equations and regression. They have been learning about modelling and maths in context in all three strands, making strong links with economics, computer science and physics.

Clubs and activities

Maths club runs every Thursday – all are welcome to come. Use this time to get support with homework, try extra challenges or revise previous topics.

Chess club – Can you beat Mr Blankson? Come along on a Thursday lunchtime to challenge a teacher or your friends.

Spotlight on Jewish Studies

Term 1 – Jewish Studies

The beginning of the year is always a busy one in the Jewish Calendar. Students learn and explore the Jewish rituals that are within the month of Tishrei.

Year 7 – Festivals

Year 7 have explored the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The themes of forgiveness, repentance and kindness have been a constant within our lessons. Our enrichment programme, alongside lessons have enabled students to create cards for loved ones or for those people who are alone. Students also decorated honey Jars to give as presents for whom they may wish to. Our aim is to ensure the sweetness of the new year is spread out wide in our community. We are now looking forward to the festival of Sukkot. Students will learn about the rituals and meaning of this festival, alongside external benefits such as appreciation and empathy. Opportunities to shake the Lulav and Etrog, dwell in the Sukkah are provided, alongside joyous informal programmes.



Year 8 – Jonah and Sukkot

Year 8s have been exploring the book of Jonah. Key themes include sin, forgiveness, and divine intervention. The story of Jonah not only applies to their life and attitude/behaviour to one another but is in line with the festival of Yom Kippur and its themes of forgiveness and repentance. Just like year 7 enrichment opportunities will take place where students are able to partake in the commandment and customs of Sukkot.

Year 9 – Diversity

Year 9s have been exploring Diversity, Deity, and covenants in Judaism. To understand and explore diversity is imperative to key themes we value, such as tolerance and respect. Students explore the various backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures within the Jewish faith. Opportunities to share similarities of other religions are explored too. Within each unit there is a requirement to understand what we are studying and to be able to evaluate the content, however there is also an emphasis on instilling values within each topic. Covenants with G-d enable students to see the importance of sticking to an agreement, regardless of its difficulty and challenge.

Key Stage 4

These are our GCSE classes. They will continue their respective courses where they explore key contemporary issues within our modern world and learn how religions respond to these. Our course is diverse where we explore, Judaism, Islam, and elements of Christianity. For year 11 there is an emphasis now on developing their academic writing through analytical questions to prepare them for the up-and-coming GCSE. As of course within our subject learning is not purely academic, it is about teaching tolerance, respect and providing a safe space to discuss contentious issues of our world. Our GCSE course enables all of these to occur.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 are being introduced to the 3 main elements of the course. These include Philosophy, ethics, and Judaism. They will be exploring ideas and concepts such as mind and body duality, arguments based on observation and reason, Natural law and Jewish living. An emphasis on developing critical thinking is a theme that runs throughout the A level.

Year 13 expands into ideas about religious language, Nature of G-d and Holocaust theology/theodicy. As students' progress through the course, they acquire skills such as critical thinking, essay writing and how to articulate themselves in a controlled and concise manner, that mirrors to the OCR specification.

Year 9

Welcome all to Year 9 at King Solomon! A very exciting year, the last of key stage 3 and one in which students will build important habits and attitudes for the future. Year 9 is important for many reasons, as the students' first look to their future in the choice of choosing GCSE options gives our students agency in their studies. A lot of advice and information on this is to come, so stay tuned!

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise a few students who have impressed in their return to school, through their dedication to the school values of learning, charity and kindness.

Students to highlight:

- **Maria Valter** – Always ready with a smile and a wave, Maria's positive attitude and demeanour is contagious. Thanks Maria!
- **Modestas Slavinskis** – Despite a serious injury, Modestas has shown his dedication to his team by acting as impromptu manager of the football team. His leadership has resonated and not gone unnoticed.

A big thank you to all those who helped with our recent opening evening, in particular our tour guides: **Ella Gelkoff, Sidney Williams, Zachary Poole, Amelie Marks** and **Kiki Harris!**

I teach mathematics, a subject that has prepared me for my role as head of year by teaching me invaluable problem-solving skills, patience, and resilience. It is an absolute pleasure and honour to be the Head of Year 9, a role I always dreamt of when I first started teaching.

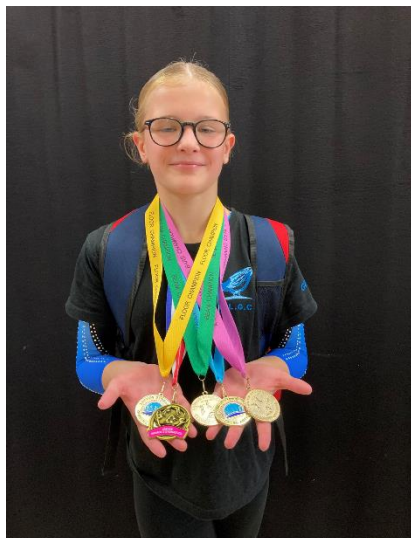
Johnathon Gerstenberg, Head of Year 9

Staff spotlight



Name:	Keziah Yeboah
Job title	Wellbeing Mentor
How long have they been at KS?	5 months
What does your role entail?	I give students a safe space to express how they feel and support students who maybe struggling with low self-esteem, family issues or anxiety. As a mentor I explore different strategies with the students to see what is the best fit to support them.
What do you enjoy about working at KS?	I enjoy working with the students and building a professional mentor and mentee relationship. I also enjoy the sense of community at KS.

Sporting Success



Congratulations to Sophia Kopliku in Year 9 who attended the Gymnastics London Challenge Cup qualifier for the national finals and got 1st place! She also achieved gold in individual apparatus, floor, beam, bars and vault out of 40 girls in her category. National finals will take place in December, good luck!

Congratulations to Alfie Vajushi and MJ Iyeli in Year 9 who have been selected for the County Football team. This is a great achievement, and we are really pleased and excited for them.

Aztec Summer projects in History

Our now year 8 students were given a task to do over the summer. They were asked to create a memorial to Aztec culture. They had many options to choose from and here are some fantastic examples of work submitted. The top 30 submissions are being rewarded with a history trip next term.





We are delighted to share with you our clubs which are running during lunch time and after school. Please encourage your child to attend at least one club per week.

KING SOLOMON HIGH SCHOOL
PE CLUBS
 HALF TERM 1

MONDAYS

TABLE TENNIS	Lunch	NETBALL	After School
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TUESDAYS

BADMINTON	Lunch	STAFF MEETINGS	After School
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WEDNESDAYS

TABLE TENNIS	Lunch	EXAM INTERVENTION	After School
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THURSDAYS

BASKETBALL	Lunch	FOOTBALL	After School
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KEEP AN EYE ON SYNERGY APP FOR CLUB UPDATES AND DETAILS

EVERY THURSDAY LUNCHTIME

CHESS CLUB

KS

- HELP DEVELOP ANALYTICAL SKILLS.
- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- FUN WAY TO LEARN WITH OTHERS.

ROOM 123 WITH MR BLANKSON (AKA GARY KASPAROV)

PERFORMING ARTS CLUBS

MONDAY

Lunch Time
 O11 - Glee Club with Miss Daniel
 After School
 A-Level/ GCSE Intervention

TUESDAY

Lunch Time
 O11 - Music Tech with Miss Daniel
 O12 - Costume Design with Mattie

WEDNESDAY

Lunch Time
 O11 - Bridgeton's Band with Miss Daniel
 O12 - Musical Theatre with Miss Oggin
 After School
 Young Scriptwriters with Ms Colangelo-Lillis

THURSDAY

Lunch Time
 O11 - Percussionists Unite with Mr Rampino
 O12 - Drama Club with Alexandra
 After School
 O12 - Step into Dance with The Royal Academy of Dance

GAMING CLUB

ROOM 126
 YEARS 7 & 8

WEEK ONE - MONDAY - LUNCHTIME
 (max. capacity applies)

The History Mystery Club!

Care to learn more?

Are you in Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9?

Do you need help with your History homework?

Are you interested in historical mysteries, or creative projects that help recreate or showcase the past?

If you are, come to our History Mystery Club!!!

Run by our ALEVEL History Prefects and GCSE Humanities Prefects each Tuesday in room 106.

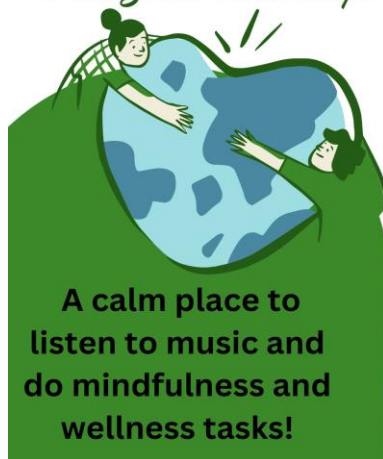
KS4 CLUBS



WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS (WEEK 1)

Feel good Thursdays (week 2)

with Miss
Karlsson
Room 106



A calm place to
listen to music and
do mindfulness and
wellness tasks!



Week One.
Tuesday Lunchtimes:
Concept Drawing Club

Week Two.
Tuesday Lunchtimes:
Fashion Illustration Club

Mr Porpiglia

Room 021
Design and
Technology

Safeguarding contacts

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or the wellbeing of any other student at King Solomon High School, please contact the school on 020 8498 1331 or email the DSL at safeguarding@kshsonline.uk This email address can also be used for students, parents and carers to share any safeguarding concerns or to request support.

If you are concerned that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed and school cannot be contacted, please contact Redbridge Children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 020 8708 3885, and all the police on 999 straight away.

Helpful numbers and websites

- **Childline:** 0800 1111
- **NSPCC helpline:** 0808 800 5000
- **The police:** (if you are in danger): 999.
- **LGBT switchboard:** 0300 330 0630
- **Kooth:** www.kooth.com - support service for students wellbeing
- **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (emergency team):** 020 8496 3000
- **Barnardos:** 0800 008 7005

Talk to someone....

- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- if you feel anxious or unable to cope
- if someone has hurt you physically, emotionally, or mentally.
- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- if you feel worried about someone at home
- if you are being threatened or forced to do things
- if someone has done something to you without your consent
- if you feel unsafe in school, at home or on the streets.
- about anything else worrying you

Mental Health and wellbeing

We are continuously working hard to improve our understanding as a community of mental health, to enable us to provide the best possible outcomes for the young people in our lives. The school is fully committed to supporting the well-being of its students, staff and parents. To encourage a supportive well-being culture, we have a wide ranging and comprehensive mental health provisions within place at school and want to ensure there is information available for when students are at home. At King Solomon High School, we aim to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our whole school community (children, staff, parents and carers), and recognise how important mental health and emotional wellbeing is to our lives in just the same way as physical health. We recognise that children's mental health is a crucial factor in their overall wellbeing and can affect their learning, achievement and emotional wellbeing. All children go through difficulties during their school career, and some may face significant life events. Life brings a range of stresses and strains and to make the most of life they will need to learn to manage feelings and cope with the experiences of life to ensure they do not get in the way of their learning and living, therefore emotional wellbeing is our coping and resilience in relation to situations that may affect our mental health and is

therefore unique to the individual. We encourage our students to look after their mind is just as important as looking after their body and caring about their physical fitness.

If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to extremely poor mental health, please inform the school.

You can also contact one of these numbers to seek support from a specialist. The Crisis line is there to offer guidance if your child may be having suicidal thoughts and is possibly in immediate danger. If you do ever find yourself in a position where you need to use these resources for your child, please make the school aware so we can provide appropriate support within school for your child.

Urgent mental health support - 24/7 crisis lines

Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
North Central London	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North East London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
South West London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
South East London	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
	Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	0800 330 8590

Every mental health trust in London has put in place a 24/7 crisis line for people of all ages - children, young people and adults. The lines which are free to call can provide advice to those in a crisis. These crisis lines are supported by trained mental health advisors 365 days a year.

You can find the 24/7 crisis line numbers using the NHS Service Finder ([link below](#)) but the table provides all of the telephone numbers in London.

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>



Student medical needs

If your child needs to take regular medication in school, please request a Medicines Consent Form from the Admin office to give the school consent to administer medication to your child.

All medications that are kept in school must be stored in the medical room.