

King Solomon High School Newsletter

22nd September 2023, 6 Tishrei 5784

Parshat Ha'azinu



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well and did not get caught in the extreme weather conditions yesterday.

Yesterday we welcomed over four hundred visitors for our annual open evening for prospective year 7 students. Our wonderful school choir sang our school motto song and our head students Ruby and Lewis gave a talk on how King Solomon High School has shaped them as young adults. We were very lucky to also have a talk from Mrs Rose, one of our school governors who also has children at the school. I gave a talk to prospective parents/carers about the nurturing pastoral care and excellent academic results at this school. I also set out my vision for the school moving forward. I look forward to sharing this vision with parents and carers attending the 'meet the new head teacher and senior leadership team' event next Thursday evening. I am very thankful to all the students who helped out and represented the school as tour guides and department helpers, during the open evening.

This week I have had student voice sessions with year 8 and year 9 students. They all let me know how much they prefer our new lunch time queuing system because it means that students are served more quickly and the canteen is calm and orderly. We have also seen a significant reduction in rubbish being left in the canteen.

Please can I ask parents and carers of year 9 students to note that the pathways evening scheduled for the 19th October has been postponed. A new date will be shared in due course. On Thursday 19th October the school will close at 12.00pm for students and they will be set remote learning to complete at home for the remainder of the school day. This decision has been taken for the purposes of staff training. I apologise for the short notice and any inconvenience caused by these two changes. I hope parents and carers will understand that when there is a new headteacher, there is often the need for additional staff training time.

The school is closed on Monday as it is the Jewish festival Yom Kippur. This is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar and marks the end of the Ten Days of Repentance. There is more information further on in this newsletter about Yom Kippur. Next weekend Jewish people will be celebrating the festival Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles). Sukkot is a harvest festival and Jewish people also remember how G-d took care of the ancient Israelites when they wandered in the wilderness, following their exodus from Egypt. We look forward to celebrating this festival in our very own school Sukkah.

I have now completed my third week as a headteacher and I feel very much part of the King Solomon High School family. I am enjoying every minute of being the headteacher of this wonderful and unique school and I am looking forward to the journey of improvement that lies ahead.

I will be spending this Yom Kippur in reflection and will be giving thanks to G-d for giving me this wonderful opportunity to lead King Solomon High School into its next phase of improvements.

To all those fasting this Yom Kippur, I wish you well over the fast.

Kind regards and shabbat shalom

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Key Dates for the first half term

Monday 25th September – school closed for Yom Kippur

Wednesday 27th September 9-10:30am – Prospective Parents Morning

Thursday 28th September – 5:00pm – 6:30pm – Meet the Head & SLT Team (book [here](#))

Thursday 5th October 5:30pm-7pm – Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening

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

Thursday 19th October 6-7pm – Year 9 Pathways Information Evening – POSTPONED. NEW DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

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

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term

Behaviour reminder

- 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

Yom Kippur & Sukkot

The festival of Yom Kippur, also known as The Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It begins on Sunday evening. Jewish people begin a 25 hour fast and will go to the synagogue to pray. We ask G-D for forgiveness for the sins we have committed over the past year.

Sukkot (Harvest festival) is a weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest. We celebrate Sukkot by building a succah in our garden and should spend as much time in there as possible. This is to remind us of how Jewish people would have made shelter on their way out of Egypt. The first two days of the festival are Yom Tov and work is forbidden. This year, Sukkot falls over the weekend.

Spotlight on English

Term 1 - in English

The English department have been taking part in some exciting things this term to kick-start the year.

Year 7 - non- fiction writing:



Unfortunately, the students' first day at King Solomon hasn't gone well, as they were off on their summer holidays and have experienced a plane crash. They are now stranded on 'The Island' and will explore non-fiction writing genres to report the crash experience.

Year 8 - Miss Havisham:



Year 8s got the opportunity to meet the eccentric Miss Havisham in their first lesson and will be studying her character this half term. They completed an investigation about her with some clues to guess who she is now and why she's worn her wedding dress every day since she was jilted at the altar. This term, we will find out why she hasn't left the house in twenty- five years and get to the bottom of why she is a man-hater!



Year 9 Of Mice and Men:

Year 9s are studying the classic story of 'Of Mice and Men' and are exploring ideas about friendship and the American Dream. They began the term looking at what it was like to live in America in the 1920s.



Years 10 and 11 Introduction and refreshers for GCSEs:



At key stage four there is no time to waste with the looming GCSE exams. Year 10 are kicking off by starting to practise for their speaking and listening exam and year 11 are revising what the expectations of the GCSE are.

A-Level Language and Literature:

The course begins by learning about how language has changed over time, how the emoji (which was Word of the Year) has become a firm part of our communication and how social technology has an impact on our language. Literature students are looking at dystopian language before reading some famous dystopian stories for themselves.

Spotlight on Performing Arts



We have had a strong start in Performing Arts with students being given lots of varying opportunities to express themselves dramatically and musically.

Year 7 – Musical elements and Jewish theatre

Year 7 have dived into learning all about 'DR CAT SMITH' and the core elements of any piece of music while also starting to learn a Hebrew song to perform at our upcoming Chanukah concert. We can't wait to share these with you. Some of our year 7s have also started to explore Jewish Theatre and Music through the ages. We are enjoying learning lots of both contemporary and historical Jewish pieces.

Year 8 – Kapa Haka and African Theatre

Year 8 are travelling to New Zealand and learning all about the performance practices of the Māori people. We are enjoying exploring learning about their connection to the land, their culture, and their people and how they express this through the Performing arts. On the other hand, some of our students are learning about African theatre. Currently we are learning about Ghana and traditional nurse rhymes and how we can perform these for audiences.

Year 9 - Hip Hop & Rap and Musical Theatre

Year 9 are breaking their way into our Hip Hop & Rap unit learning all about Cubase and how to create beats on the computer. Students are enjoying learning about rap and hip hop through the ages and how it has been shaped by other styles. Also, some of our students have been learning about Musical theatre in specific the song 'York Town' from Hamilton. Students are enjoying learning the choreography and how to rap while dancing.

Year 10 drama students are learning all about the different roles and responsibilities in the theatre while also learning about the different stage types and how to perform/design for them. While Year 10 music students are learning all about the core musical elements and how they can be used in both performance and composition to create sophisticated pieces of music.

Year 11 Drama are finalising their devised performances ready to showcase their knowledge and abilities in performing in both the styles of Frantic Assembly and Epic theatre. While year 11 music on the other hand are finalising their free compositions and their solo performances. We can't wait to listen to them both.

KS5 Drama

Year 12 are learning all about Steven Berkoff and his style of Total theatre. They have been creating some inspiring exaggerated ensemble work which Mr Coates and Miss Coggin have been thoroughly impressed by.

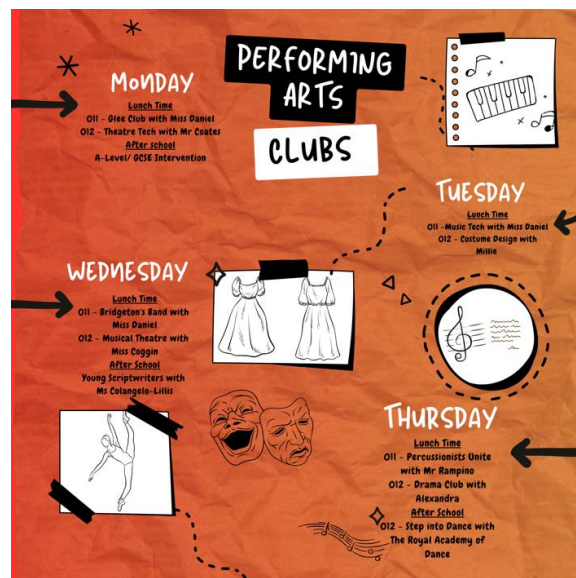
Year 13 are delving into Caryl Churchill's 'Love and Information'. They are enjoying learning all about Postmodernist theatre and how they can stage this performance for a contemporary audience.

Clubs

Our clubs have started back with a bang! Students are really enjoying our Glee Club and rehearsing for our open evening and getting ready for our audition for the Jack Petchey Glee Club competition. Fingers crossed we can make it to regionals!

Students are also really enjoying our Step into dance club that is being led by Rachel from the Royal Academy of dance on a Thursday after school from 3:30 until 4:30. Currently they are learning all about contemporary dance and we are looking forward to them also performing at our Chanukah concert.

For a list of other clubs that we are running during lunch (1:30 – 2:00) and after school (3:30 – 4:30). Please see below.



Tuition

At King Solomon we offer a range of both music and LAMDA tuition during school hours. If you would like to learn more about our [Music tuition](#) or [LAMDA tuition](#), please look at our website or email tuition@kshsonline.uk for more information.

LAMDA Tuition

We have an exciting opportunity for you to work with a professional actor while also being able to complete LAMDA approved acting and public speaking tuition.

You can complete courses and get qualifications, medals and UCAS Points in acting, reading for performance, speaking in public and Shakespeare.

All sessions will be 30 min and cost only £15 per session. Sessions will be completed in school time.

Contact tuition@kshsonline.uk for more information!

WEMCO AND B SHARP STUDIOS

GET ONE - ON - ONE

MUSIC LESSONS

Want to learn how to play an instrument or learn how to sing?

EMAIL - [TUITION@KSHSONLINE.UK](mailto:tuition@kshsonline.uk) FOR ANY INQUIRES

Improve your skill in playing various instruments under the guidance of expert musicians.

SIGN UP NOW!

Recently some of our LAMDA students completed their levelled exams and we are excited to announce that they all received above distinctions! Well done to all students.



Pictured: Erisa Perhati, Paige Harris, Emily Zaika, Laya Jackson, Olivia Leff and Holly Saliba

Year 8

As we enter Year 8, we truly see the progression and growth of our students from the early days of Year 7. The once bashful and slightly bewildered students now navigate the huge leap into secondary in a seemingly effortless manner. This is a year where students can develop and carve out a successful school career. This is a time where our students can discover new passions, hone their skills and really find their feet within the school. There is more responsibility placed upon our students in year 8 but this is matched with more opportunity. I look forward to seeing this cohort build on the fantastic start they made in year 7 and continue to embody the high expectations we set for them.

Top tips:

- Use your teachers to your advantage. Your teachers are fountains of knowledge, if you don't know something, ask!
- Surround yourself with friends that support your goals this year. Year 8 is a critical year for your development, a strong support system will help you succeed.
- Lead by example. Remember when you joined the school and an older student looked after or helped you. Be that role model.

Students to highlight:

- Daniel Szybiak & Evelina Seckbiate: Mr Coates and the performing arts department have praised Daniel and Evelina for their exceptional performances over the past year. These two have shown a continual commitment to the performing arts and have been crucial to the success of the school's biggest performances and productions.
- Jackson Wade: Exemplified sporting excellence throughout Year 7 and continues to do so. A multiple sport athlete who has won gold for the school in county cross country and 1500 metres.

This is my second year at King Solomon, and I am delighted to be a part of the school during this exciting time. The school has been incredibly supportive over the past 12 months as I have transitioned from a career in professional sport. I love this role because I get to engage with so many different students. It allows me to provide academic, wellbeing and general pastoral support to students and offer them a figure who they know they can come to for help.

Staff spotlight



Name:	Miss Burack
Job title	Assistant headteacher or safeguarding, attendance and student wellbeing
How long have they been at KS?	9 Years
What does your role entail?	My job role entails ensuring to safeguard all the students within school, track and monitor whole-school student attendance and oversee the student wellbeing/medical provisions (plus I also teach science).
What do you enjoy about working at KS?	I really enjoy getting to know all the students and supporting them in any way I can. Witnessing their journey of personal development and growth through their time at school is extremely rewarding, especially once students leave, they still like to check back in and let us know all the things they have continued to achieve after their school years.



Name	Miss Davies
Job title	Deputy safeguarding lead
How long have they been at KS?	I joined in June this year.
What does your role entail?	I assist Ms Burack in all matters of safeguarding across the school, I attend a range of different meetings, liaise with the local authority as well as working with a range of different agencies to ensure all students in the school are safe and have the correct support in place.
What do you enjoy about working at KS?	I have enjoyed working and getting to know a range of different students – as well as being a shoulder to cry on when needed! It is extremely rewarding to know that I will be part of a young person's personal growth, and acting as a person of support within their time at school.



Name	Mrs Levy
Job title	9 years
How long have they been at KS?	Admin/Safeguarding Officer (Medical Welfare)
What does your role entail?	My job role entails ensuring to safeguard all the students within school, taking care of students who come to medical and provide support within the Admin Team, DSL and DDSL.
What do you enjoy about working at KS?	I enjoy always supporting our students and listening to them to provide the best support I possibly can

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

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



Area	Boroughs covered	24/7 crisis line number
North West London	Brent, Hillingdon, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster	0800 0234 650
	Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham	0800 328 4444
North Central London	Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington	0800 151 0023
North East London	City & Hackney	0800 073 0006
	Newham	0800 073 0066
	Tower Hamlets	0800 073 0003
	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
South West London	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



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.