

King Solomon High School Newsletter

8th September 2023, 22nd Elul 5783

Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech



(Class of 7m)

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted and honoured to be writing to you all as your new headteacher. I have had a fantastic first week and received a warm welcome from staff and students. It is an absolute privilege to be the headteacher of this wonderful Jewish school. I am looking forward to getting to know students, staff, and families. I am committed to building on the school's strengths, while taking the school on a new journey of improvement.

On Monday, we welcomed our new year 7 students to the King Solomon High School community. They all looked very smart in their new uniforms and enjoyed a day of induction, and team building activities. Year 7 had the added joy of listening to the shofar being blown by Rabbi Rafi Goodwin from Chigwell synagogue. We also welcomed our new year 12 students, who begin their two-year programme of A level or vocational courses. On Tuesday, all students returned. It was lovely to see so many happy faces in what was a gloriously sunny day.

Meeting students and staff

My focus this week has been on introducing myself to staff and students. I have led assemblies for all year groups, where I shared my vision for the school, my expectations of all students and my own journey to becoming a headteacher. I talked to students about some of the challenges I faced when I was at secondary school and how I overcame these through self-belief, hard work and motivation. In the next two weeks I will begin meeting students in small groups to hear their feedback about the school.

My key messages to students were as follows:

- We strive to be the best we can be in all that we do.
- We have high standards and aim for excellence.
- We care about the small things such as equipment, uniform and punctuality.
- We show kindness to each other.
- We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying.
- We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We support and include everyone.
- We never use hurtful or discriminatory language. For example, we never use racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or disablist language.

Student support and wellbeing

King Solomon High School has an excellent reputation for high standards in safeguarding and supporting students' wellbeing. We have a dedicated safeguarding team, a pastoral team, including heads of year, assistant heads of year, pastoral support workers, mentors and counsellors. This is in addition to a dedicated SEND team. The last section of this newsletter is dedicated to wellbeing and safeguarding, so please do take a look. If you have any questions about your child's wellbeing, please contact their head of year in the first instance. The school has a dedicated safeguarding email address, which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Parent/carer engagement

Over the course of the year (and beyond), I will be working with senior and middle leaders, staff and governors in reviewing the school's systems to see where and how we can make improvements. I am very keen to hear from parents and carers on what aspects of the school they think are working well and what they would like to see improve.

- Parents and carers are invited to complete this survey about the school by Friday 22nd September. <https://forms.gle/qoMjpvtrQDJbSeX96>.
- On Thursday 28th September from 5.00pm - 6.30pm there will be a 'meet the new head teacher and senior leadership team' evening. Parents and carers are required to book a place in advance using this form. <https://forms.office.com/e/e5WYUPv71f>.
- There is a maximum of two adults per family, and we will not be able to accommodate students/children. This event is just for the parents and carers of existing students of the school. There are approximately 150 spaces at this event, so please do book. A second event may be arranged if we are not able to accommodate all the families who wish to attend. The booking form for this event allows parents submit up to three questions they would like answered during this event. We will not have time to take spontaneous questions on the evening, so please do send your questions in advance.

Exam results

We celebrated an excellent set of GCSE and A-level results this year. Congratulations to all students and staff for their hard work. Please read further down for a more detailed summary of our exam results.

Rosh Hashana (Jewish new year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Over the next two weeks the Jewish community will be preparing for Rosh Hashana (Jewish new year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). Rosh Hashana begins on the evening of Friday 15th September and ends on the evening of Sunday 17th September. In the Jewish calendar these are known as high holy days and are two of the most important Jewish festivals.

The symbolism around Rosh Hashana involves sweet things. We eat apples and challah dipped in honey in the hope of having a sweet new year, one that is filled with love, happiness, joy, and celebration.

Rosh Hashana marks the start of the Ten Days of Repentance. These days are dedicated to repentance and forgiveness, self-reflection.

Ten days of repentance ends with Yom Kippur, which begins Sunday 24th September at sunset and ends on Monday 25th September at sunset. School will therefore be closed on this day. Yom Kippur is a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. It is the most sacred and solemn day in the Jewish calendar, and Jewish people fast on this day.

I wish all our Jewish families a Happy New Year and I wish them well over the Yom Kippur fast.

I look forward to getting to know the school community and looking forward to meeting many of you at the parent engagement event on the 28th September. Shabbat shalom and have a lovely weekend.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Start of term behaviour reminders

Behaviour expectations

- Follow instructions first time.
- Focus on your learning.
- Only use kind and positive language.
- Never use discriminatory language.
- No play fighting. Keep hands and feet to yourself.
- No chewing gum.
- Mobile phones cannot be seen or heard anywhere on the school site. The only exception is years 12-13 who can use their phone in the 6th form area.
- Follow the one-way system around the school.

Uniform

- Please refer to our uniform policy on our school website [HERE](#). It is important that all students arrive at school wearing the correct uniform.
- A reminder that the wearing of a kippah or religious headwear is compulsory for male students.
- The wearing of fake eyelashes and excessive make-up is not allowed.
- Students are permitted to wear one plain stud in each ear.
- Facial piercing, nail varnish and fake nails are not allowed.

Equipment

- Students should arrive to school each day with the equipment that enables them to learn. This includes at least two pens, a pencil, a ruler and a calculator. It is recommended that students have their equipment stored in a pencil case. Equipment is checked each morning by your child's form tutor.
- Please note that scissors must not be brought into school. These will be provided to students when required.

Punctuality

- Arriving to school on time sets the tone for the rest of the school day. A reminder that the Starch House lane gate closes at **8.23am** each morning to allow students to reach their line-up area for a prompt **8.25am** start. If your child arrives after 8.23am they will be marked as late and will receive a 40 min detention at the end of the school day.

Attendance

- In order for your child to learn, they need to be in school. Although there may be extreme circumstances when this is not possible, there is an expectation that they attend school every day. We expect our students to be resilient and to be able to come to school, even if they have a bit of a sniffle or feel slightly under the weather.
- On the rare occasion that your child is unable to come into school, please inform our school office via the synergy app by choosing the inbox option and then click on the icon in the bottom right hand corner. A decision on whether the absence will be authorised is then made by the school.

Message from our Chair of Governors

The Governors of King Solomon welcome back our students and their families and our new students and families to the new school year. This is an exciting year with our new Head Teacher, Ms. Phillips. We are a caring community so please contact the school if you require assistance.

Brian Westbury – Chair of Governors governors@kshsonline.uk

Key Dates for the first half term

Thursday 21st September 5-8pm – Prospective Parents Evening (**1:20pm early closure for all students**)

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

Thursday 5th October 6-7pm – 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

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term

Meet the senior leadership team

Headteacher – Ms M Phillips

Deputy Headteacher – Mr B Abrahams

Assistant Headteacher – Miss K Burack

Assistant Headteacher – Mr H Villa

Assistant Headteacher – Mr A Rodriguez-Somoza

Assistant Headteacher – Miss S Adam

Assistant Headteacher – Mrs G Hart

Assistant Headteacher – Miss J Aaronson

Meet the heads of year

Head of Year 7 – Ms S Liu

Head of Year 8 – Mr L Jeannot

Head of Year 9 – Mr J Gerstenberg

Head of Year 10 – Miss R Vendrell

Head of Year 11 – Mr L Palmer

Head of Sixth Form – Mr P Judge

Welcome to Year 7



7G – Ms Adewumi



7P – Miss Coggin



7K – Miss Skela



7M – Mr Walmer



7A - Miss Thomas



7Z – Miss Hyer



My name is Ms Liu and as the Head of Year 7 I have the pleasure of welcoming and working closely with the Year 7 students as they start their Secondary School journey at King Solomon High School. This is my fourth Year 7 cohort that I have had the opportunity to work with. I am very aware of how big transition to Secondary can be and I am committed to ensuring students are supported and take advantage of the many opportunities that King Solomon High School has to offer.

On Monday 4th September, Year 7 students attended their Induction Day for the start of their secondary school journey. During this day, students spent time with their form and familiarised themselves with secondary school life. Form tutors worked closely with their tutees where students learned school routines and expectations, participated in ice breakers and familiarised themselves with their timetables.

The Year 7 Pastoral Team will play a key part in supporting students this academic year. We will be meeting the cohort every morning at line up to make sure students are ready for their day. The Year 7 Pastoral Team includes myself, Ms Khun Khun the assistant head of year and Year 7 form tutors (Ms Adewumi, Miss Hyer, Mr Walmer, Miss Coggin, Ms Thomas and Ms Skela). Together, we are looking forward to supporting and nurturing Year 7 students to reach their full potential.

Welcome to year 12



It was my pleasure to welcome our next cohort of year 12 students into King Solomon Sixth Form. On Monday 4th September our new year 12 students had their 'Induction' day in which they were made aware of the expectations of a sixth form student at our school and the support available to them throughout the next two years.

Students were greeted by their new sixth form mentors on arrival to school and had an assembly with the new headteacher Ms Philips and myself. Students then had their sixth form photos taken before meeting their sixth form mentor who spent time with the students going through some key information regarding sixth form expectations and policies. Mentors introduced our VESPA programme to students, which consists of vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude and are five key characteristics needed in order for students to be a success in our sixth form and come the end of Year 13. Students completed various activities based around 'vision' and with this determining why they are studying the A-levels of their choice and how the subjects will support them in achieving their future aspirations. Students then took part in some team building activities with their mentors. This not only allowed students to develop both communication and leadership skills but allowed them to begin to establish new friendships as we have many new faces in the sixth form this year! Students were issued with their sixth form timetable and are now all set up and ready to begin this exciting two-year journey in our sixth form.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the sixth form team. I consider myself privileged to be the head of sixth form at King Solomon High School, a position I have held for the past five years. I am extremely committed to all of our students and ensure along with my team that we provide both the right support and challenge for our students. We ensure students are provided with wide ranging opportunities, empowering them to become well-rounded individuals, ready to make informed life choices.

Along with myself there are two deputies heads of sixth form, Mr Kooyman and Ms Schiffman who support our sixth form students both pastorally and academically. Ms Schiffman is also our sixth form administrator and safeguarding lead. We have seven dedicated and experienced sixth form mentors (Ms Baker, Ms Khan, Ms Malah, Mr Jepson, Mr Crookes, Ms Osborn and Ms Pointon) who play a key role in supporting our students through their time in the sixth form.

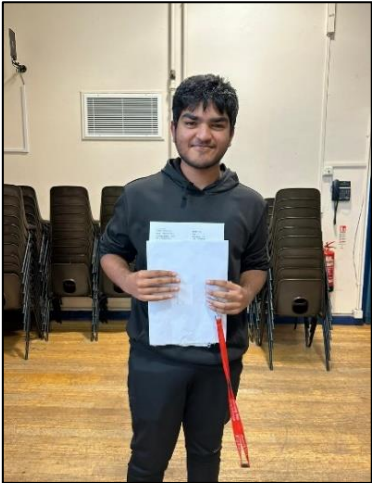
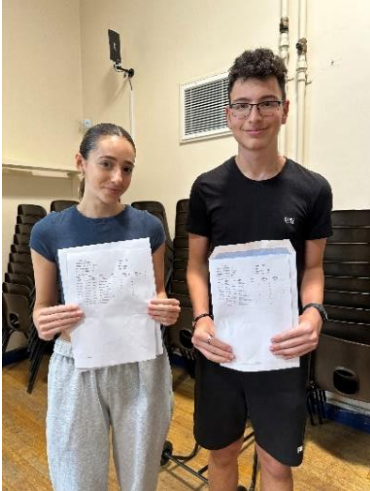
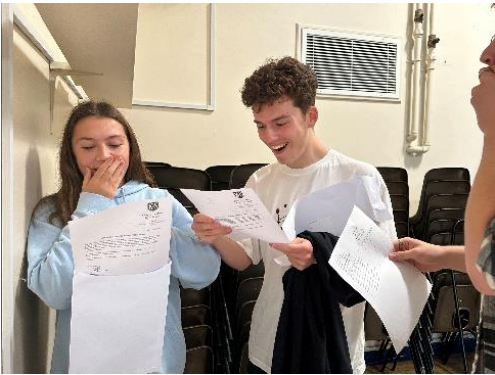
GCSE results

King Solomon have again delivered an excellent set of GCSE results, with our students performing above the national average for attainment. We also posted a positive progress 8 score, meaning our students made above average progress compared to similar students in other schools. We improved on the percentage of students who gained a standard pass in both English and Maths, with students achieving higher GCSE grades as a year group (on average) compared to the last year 11 cohort that sat their GCSE exams pre-covid. A special mention must go to the following subjects, who saw over 30% of their students achieving top grades at GCSE (grades 7-9): Art, Design & Technology, Geography, Food Technology, Music, Sociology and Spanish.

There is plenty to celebrate and a huge thank you must go to staff, and to the parents of those students, who worked with them to achieve this set of results. Everyone at King Solomon wishes the very best of luck to all of our former year 11 students, who will now be embarking on the next step of their educational journey (many of them with us, in our fantastic sixth form).

Congratulations to the following exceptional performers at GCSE:

- Daniella Vajushi
- Drin Kacaniku
- Mithun Emmanuel
- Albin Kacaniku
- Serena Chohan
- Maria Chicu
- Gavriel Sher
- Aberham Hunegnain
- Joshua Saltman
- Amina Choudhry
- Dominika Rynkevic
- Ava Rose
- Wen Jun Zhuang
- Ethan Clerck
- Shanaya Bhatia
- Jake Levy
- Ava Metzger
- Mahmudul Islam
- Prathona Hoque



GCSE Grades	The percentage of KSHS students who achieved these grades in 2023
7 - 9	27%
5 - 9	65%
4 - 9	78%

A Level results

A huge congratulations to our year 13 students who worked exceptionally hard to achieve some brilliant results at A Level. It had been a very stressful process for many students (and their parents!) who had never sat formal external examinations before due to the covid pandemic. We are proud of the effort put in by every student in helping to secure a significant improvement in our results, when compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The average grade recorded by our students has increased, with a 10% rise in students who achieve the top grades at A Level (A*-C).

We are also delighted to report that over 95% of our year 13 students have chosen to study at university, with 71% of them securing their first-choice placement. We wish these students the very best of luck and

are saying a heartfelt goodbye to many who have been at King Solomon for the past seven years. We hope they continue to stay in touch with our school community and wish to see them all involved with our alumni programme.

Congratulations to the following exceptional performers at A-Level:

- Emily Chamberlain
- Dorina Bitca
- Sophie Bracey
- Hannah-Rosa Bronstein
- Grace Cannon
- Brusk Demirci
- Sameed Ul Khan Hassan
- Rebecca Lloyd
- Jessica Preston
- Laila Schiffman
- Harry Sweeney



A Level Grades	The percentage of KSHS students who achieved these grades in 2023
A* - B	35%
A* - C	60%
A*- D	81%
A* - E	93%

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
	Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest	0300 555 1000
South East London	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
	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.