

King Solomon High School Newsletter



21st December 2023, 9th Tevet 5784

Parashat Vayigash



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our end of term newsletter. We have had a fantastic last two weeks of term filled with the light and joy of Chanukah.

I want to thank all the staff and students who have worked so hard to make this a fantastic term. Teachers, administration staff, learning support assistants, caretakers, cleaners and kitchen staff - have all shown such commitment to the school's new journey of school improvement.

In my newsletter two weeks ago I announced that the following staff are leaving today. We had a lovely staff farewell gathering yesterday. We wish all leaving staff the very best in their new jobs and thank them for their contribution to the King Solomon community. They will all be missed.

- Mr Villa - Assistant Headteacher/Spanish teacher
- Ms Adam - Assistant Headteacher/Spanish teacher
- Ms Rodrigues-Somoza- Assistant Headteacher/Spanish teacher
- Ms Hart - SENCO/Assistant headteacher
- Ms Latif - Head of DT
- Mr Blankson - Maths teacher
- Ms Sicklin - Assistant SENCO
- Ms Ndungu- Learning Support Assistant

New staff and roles

- Ms Hyer (English teacher here at King Solomon High School) has been appointed as our SENCO, and will start her new role on Monday 8th January. I will write to parents again in the new year about developments in the SEN department.
- Mrs Milan - will start her new role as Behaviour Manager.
- Ms Karlsson - will start her new role Associate Assistant Headteacher.
- Mrs Marks - has taken on the temporary role of School's Admissions Officer, alongside her Marketing role.
- Mr Halder is a new member of staff joining us as Head of Computing.
- Mr Ramez is a new member of staff joining us as Deputy Head of Maths.

Chanukah concert

I am very proud of all of our students who took part in our annual Chanukah concert. All of our year 7 students, along with the school choir, sang a variety of beautiful Jewish songs. The concert was hosted by Ruby Howes and Lewis Feldman, our brilliant Head Prefects. Our Jewish Studies Scholars gave moving speeches about what Chanukah means to them. Thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who attended the concert, and to all the staff who put so much passion, hard work and dedication into organising the event. A very special thank you goes to the Performing Arts and Jewish Studies Departments.

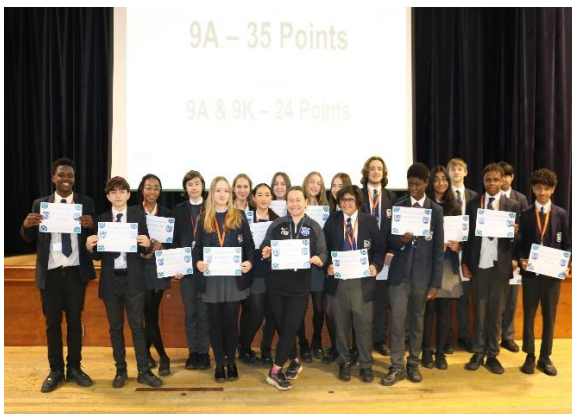




End of term assemblies

All students in years 7 to 11 attended an end of term 'celebrating success' assembly, led by their head of year. Everyone who knows me, knows that my favourite part of the school day is assembly time. The communal experience of assemblies has an uplifting and positive impact, that is very similar to the experience of attending a religious service at a place of worship.

In our end of term assemblies, we gave out Headteacher Award certificates to students who had been chosen for their all round positive contribution to the school. We celebrated students who have recently celebrated their Bar and Bat Mitzvah and we gave out a range of sporting certificates. Heads of year reminded students about the importance of good attendance and behaviour and celebrated the form groups who have had positive achievements in these two areas.





Alan Senitt programme

We were delighted to be the host school for the Alan Senitt programme. We welcomed students from Noak Hill, and JFS who spent the day at King Solomon High School. Students who participated had a fantastic day networking with other schools.

Therapy dog provision

Yesterday we hosted our second therapy dog event. This is a student wellbeing programme I started at my previous school. This was so successful that I wanted students at King Solomon High School to also benefit from the therapeutic benefits of Freddie the Toy Poodle, who is a certified Therapy Dog with Therapy Dogs Nationwide. Ms Burack and Ms Davies have done fantastic work in setting up this programme.



Reminders for the term ahead

- School reopens to all students on Monday 8th January, at the usual time of 8.15am.
- Year 9 and year 12 students begin their mid year assessments on Monday 8th January. Information has been sent to parents of students in these year groups with a further letter today with where to find the revision guidance for each subject. Please remember these are assessments that schools always undertake, and you and your children should not be worried about them but please do ensure that revision is taken seriously.
- Please ensure that students return to school with a fully stocked pencil case and in full school uniform.
- We will be hosting our mock exam results events for Y11 and Y13 on Friday 11th January.
- Year 11 parents evening is on 18th January. Information has been sent to all parents and carers regarding booking online using the schoolcloud. Please can the parents of year 11 students ensure that appointments are booked to avoid disappointment.

All students should have the following in their pencil cases:

- 2 blue pens
- 2 black pens
- 2 green pens
- 2 pencils
- Coloured pencils
- Ruler, rubber, sharpener, pritt stick
- Highlighters

Please note scissors must NOT be brought into school

Students will be welcomed back to school on the 8th January with assemblies, where all students will receive a student planner. We have taken the decision to bring back student planners to promote good organisation and so that students have a reference point for key information such as behaviour expectations, wellbeing advice and a record of their homework.

Charity and community are two of our school values. Please let us all remember that this time of year can be very challenging for some people. We are still in a cost of living crisis; many people in England are homeless or living in temporary accommodation. Global peace, specifically in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, continues to cause concern and uncertainty. There are many different ways to support people in need, whether that be financially, through giving time, by donating items, through our day to day work or by getting involved in charitable events. One thing we can all do, is spread kindness and positivity, and to teach this to our children. Let us all hope and pray for peaceful times ahead.

*The world is based on three things - on the Torah, on the service of God, and upon acts of loving-kindness.
(Pirkei Avot 1:2)*

Rabbi Akiva taught: 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Leviticus/Bereshit 19:18). This is the most important rule in the Torah.

I wish all of our school community a restful winter break, filled with light and joy.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Request from the office

Please be advised that all lateness to school, appointments or absences needs to be reported via the Synergy parent app. Please refrain from using the absence telephone line as this is doubling up our workload.

You need to log into the app, go to your Inbox and under Departments choose "Report an Absence".

Important information regarding social media

It has come to our attention at various points over the term, that offensive and very cruel comments and photos have been posted on Instagram, posted by King Solomon High School students.

We want to reassure parents and carers that we always investigate these matters and have the accounts removed (although this is not within our control). Our behaviour policy applies to students while outside school, especially when the school's name is brought into disrepute and our students behave in a manner that has an impact in school and on students.






However, the issues we are seeing with offensive and unkind online content being posted online is all being carried out by students outside of school hours, while they are in their parents' care. Please can parents and carers consider the following points:

- Many young people are given smartphones before they are mature enough and responsible enough to manage such free access to content that could be harmful to them.
- Many young people are setting up social media accounts with fake dates of birth. This is giving them access to mature/adult/harmful content that is not available to young audiences who use their real date of birth.
- Parents and carers should take a firm stance with their children's access to social media and smartphone technology, to prevent them from misusing social media and being exposed to harmful content. Too many young people have unrestricted phone use.
- There are a range of parent controls on iPhone and Android phones, and separate parent controls on apps such as Tik Tok and Snapchat.
- iPhones have brilliant parent control functions which allow parents to stop their child's access to specific apps at the touch of a button, set time limits for specific apps, and set timeframes when the phone cannot be used.
- Parents should routinely (on a weekly basis at the very least) check their children's phones, social media posting history, browsing history, messages and photo gallery (don't forget to check the hidden and deleted photo folders).
- Parents should talk to their children on a regular basis about respectful and safe online behaviour.

We are spending a lot of staff and school time investigating social media activity from outside school time. We will always investigate these incidents, but this is very time consuming and detracts from other important schoolwork. Because online abuse is often anonymous, it is very difficult to get to the bottom of who is responsible. We also take very seriously any students who participate in inappropriate online behaviours by commenting on and/or liking offensive posts and content.

Please can parents and carers be extra vigilant with their children's social media activity during the school holidays and as a guide, please refer below to the age ratings for each social media application.

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+		16+	
 Facebook	 Snapchat	 WhatsApp	
 Instagram	 Twitter		
 TikTok	 Kik	 Sarahah	 MeetMe
 YouNow	 Yubo	 YOLO	 LiveMe
 House Party	 Monkey		

Thank you for your support with this matter.

The Senior Leadership Team

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
South West London	Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth	0800 028 8000
South East London	Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark	0800 731 2864
South East London	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.