

King Solomon High School Newsletter

20 December 2024, 19 Kislev 5785



Dear Parents and Carers

As we arrive at the end of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to reflect on the successful term we have had.

This term has been full of learning, achievements, and enriching opportunities. All of Year 8 went to the Science Museum on the first trip of a new programme of cultural capital trips. Year 11 and Year 13 art and photography students attended the Van Gogh exhibition at the National Gallery. This was a rare opportunity to see pieces of artwork by Van Gogh that had never before been exhibited together. This week we had our annual Year 7 Chanukah concert, which brought a joyous end to the term. We have held two information evenings for Year 11 and Year 13 parents on how the school is supporting students towards exam success. We have also had a number of guest speakers visit the

school this term to enhance students' personal, social and health education. We have ended the term with achievement assemblies for all year groups and have given out hundreds of reward vouchers, badges and certificates in recognition of all the students who have demonstrated excellent behaviour and attendance.

Please do read our separate letter regarding behaviour and equipment, sent by Mr Tomene.

I am particularly proud of the way our Year 11 and Year 13 students approached their mock exams. We held a mock results afternoon event yesterday and we were delighted to see the results of the hard work that many students had put into their exams. There is still over four months to go until the public exams, for students to continue working hard to make further improvements to their grades. We will be launching an intervention programme in the spring term for students who require additional support to improve their grades.

The return to our new timetable has gone well, and we are also pleased to welcome two new members of staff who joined us recently -

Ms Sanchez Lopez - Head of Spanish

Ma Iqbal - Psychology and RE teacher

The Jewish community will be celebrating the first night of Chanukah on Monday 25th December, which is also Christmas Day. Please do read more about Chanukah, and its meaning and importance for Jewish people, further on in this newsletter. I would like to wish all those celebrating, a happy Chanukah and a happy Christmas.

Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who make King Solomon High School a vibrant school community. I wish you all a restful and joyous holiday season. This is a time to celebrate, reflect, and recharge, and I hope you and your families have the opportunity to do so.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday 7th January at 8:20am. Please note that Monday 6th January is a staff INSET day.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Important Dates

AUTM N TERM 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 - Friday 20th December 2024

Last Day of Autumn Term - Friday 20th December (Early closure 1:20pm)

Winter Holiday - Monday 23rd December 2024 - Monday 6th January 2025

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025

INSET Day - Monday 6th January 2025 (school closed to students)

First Day of Term - Tuesday 7th January 2025 (first day of term for all students)

HALF TERM (School closed) - Monday 17th February 2025 - Friday 21st February 2025

Last Day of Spring Term - Friday 4th April 2025 (Early closure 1:20pm)

Spring Holiday - Monday 7th April 2025 - Monday 21st April 2025

Term Dates

Please click on the icon for **2024 - 2025** Term Dates - 

Please click on the icon for **2025 - 2026** Term Dates - 

Parents Evening, Assessment, Reports

Year Group	Parents Evening	Mid-year Assessment	Progress Report 1	End of year Assessment	Progress Report 2
7	24 th April 2025	10 th - 21 st March 2025	4 th April 2025	9 th - 20 th June 2025	3 rd July 2025
8	20 th March 2025	27 th January - 7 th February 2025	27 th February 2025	12 th - 23 rd May 2025	13 th June 2025
9	13 th February 2025	6 th - 17 th January 2025	30 th January 2025	21 st April - 2 nd May 2025	15 th May 2025
10	6 th March 2025	27 th January - 7 th February 2025	27 th February 2025	23 rd June - 4 th July 2025	17 th July 2025
Year Group	Parents Evening	Mock Exams	Progress Report 1	Mid-year assessment	Progress Report 2
11	9 th January 2025 (on site)	18 th - 29 th November	19 th December 2024	24 th Feb - 7 th March 2025	20 th March 2025
13	6 th February 2025 (on site)	18 th - 29 th November	19 th December 2024	24 th Feb - 7 th March 2025	20 th March 2025

SEND Department - Events

Coffee Morning

On the 23rd January, The SEND department will be hosting a coffee morning between 10:00 - 11:00am in the main hall. The event is open to all our SEND parents. There will be a talk by Ms Phillips and Miss Hyer as well as Specialist Education and Training Support Services (SEaTSS), who will come in and introduce their service. There will then be an opportunity to have some of your questions that were sent out previously answered.

If you are interested in attending this event please click [HERE](#) and fill in the Microsoft form.



Parasha Reflections - Mrs Juggler

This year, the first night of Chanukah falls on the 25th December, Christmas Day.

It's the first time since 2005 that this has happened, before any of our current students were born. As a result, whilst many Christians will be celebrating, Jews too will light their chanukiyot and place them in their windows.

The festival of Chanukah celebrates the preservation of Jewish identity and practice. It is a time where Jews are reminded of the light that faith can bring to their lives. The word Chanukah means 'Dedication' and is named to represent the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after the war with the Assyrians. After a long term in which many of our students and staff have showed dedication to teaching and learning we also appreciate a time for dedicating ourselves to rest and rejuvenation and for some time to restore our own light. In my first term at KSHS, I have met some incredible students that are excited to be part of improving school life through student voice and school council, teachers who are willing to use their lunchtime and time after school to support students in preparing for exams and many students and colleagues who are simply good friends to each other. There are many examples of light in this community and of that we can be very proud.

Wishing you all a Chanukah Sameach and a peaceful end to the year.

Medical

Should your child have an accident inside or outside of school that requires them to attend A&E, please inform the school as soon as possible as a Risk Assessment Meeting may need to be arranged. Any new medical conditions also need to be reported to Mrs Levy (Welfare/Safeguarding Officer).

Attendance

Attendance is crucial for continued academic progress and personal development outcomes. We work with PaJeS who are an organisation that provide services, support, and strategy to Jewish Schools, primarily throughout the UK.

PaJeS are delighted to offer a webinar for parents and carers who struggle to get their child to school or to stay in school. This will take place on Monday 13th January 2025 at 8pm.

Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is a challenge for many parents.

Cathy Haysom, Executive Headteacher of Heartwood House, and educator on EBSA, will be sharing knowledge on spotting the early signs of school avoidance and how to work with the school to support the child. This webinar (where your identity is not seen by others), is suitable for both primary and secondary school children.

Sign up here: <https://pajes.org.uk/training-and-events/parent-wellbeing-ebsa/>

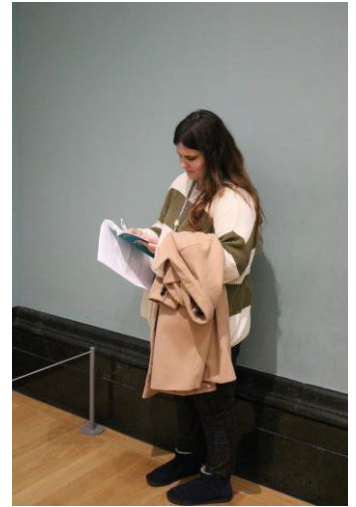
Chanukah Concert

On Wednesday evening (18th December), our year 7 students shone brightly during their performance at the annual Chanukah concert. They sang and they danced whilst our year 11 GCSE Music students accompanied them. Harry Ben Shir in year 9 organised the lights and sound for the show. We would like to wish them all Mazeltov (congratulations) on their performances and contributions.



Art Trip - National Gallery - Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers

On Wednesday 18th December the Year 11 and 13 Art and Photography groups visited the Vincent van Gogh 'Poets and Lovers' exhibition held at the National Gallery in Central London. The focus of the day was on teaching students about how to look closely at artworks and discover that Van Gogh found a method and technique of drawing and painting that enabled him to be so productive as an artist over a relatively short time. They also reflected on how many of the things he included in his pictures held enormous, symbolic importance to him, often representing his own life experiences and philosophical ideas. Many students conveyed how much they had enjoyed the trip and how they had discovered new things about Van Gogh and his artwork.





PSHE Workshops

Drugline

During PSHE for the last 2 weeks, year 8 and year 9 have had the chance to hear from the organisation Drugline about the impacts of drug use. They learnt about the risks of getting involved with drugs from a young age and how that can have lasting effects on the lives of those that use and their family members. Students were engaged and contributed superbly throughout. Our guest speaker was very impressed with how our students conducted themselves.



Streetwise

During PSHE for the last 2 weeks year 7's have had sessions with facilitators from Streetwise. The organisation aims to equip the young people in our community with the knowledge and confidence to keep themselves safe and better protected. The sessions for year 7 were focused on personal safety and keeping safe during the transition from primary to secondary school. We were really impressed with how engaged our year 7's were and the quality of discussion that took place. We are looking forward to welcoming back Streetwise for more sessions in the new year.



Student Council



Meet our Student Council

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new Student Council. This exceptional team is dedicated to improving the lives of KS students, and its duties include -

- Acting as a voice for peers and liaising with staff
- Tackling logistical problems around school
- Promoting high standards of behaviour and academic achievement
- Representing KS within the local community
- Creating and seeking opportunities for students to demonstrate excellence

While not all members are pictured here, the current makeup of the Council is as follows:

Lily Rayner, Saitha Koneswaran, Ibrahim Khan, Madalina Polenske, Brodie Schiffman, Anna-Victoria Amofao-Sennie, Nathaniel Phillips-Brill, Oluwatimilehin Ogungbemi, Mason Pomerance, Allegra Aiken, Jenson Block, Olivia MacQueen, Ava Bluman, Bonnie Parnell, Vanessa Jaksaityte, Frankie Harris, Alexandra Ciolacu, Summar Roopra, Logan Glicksman, Daniel Szybiak, Harry Ben-Shir, Hannah Scarry, Tahir Rashed, Jason Brown, Nikoloz Labeikis, Farah Shalom, Ayomiposi Ogungbemi, Sadie Darnell-Saunders, Joshua Harris, Jaydon Yu, Amelia Palade, Lexi Bick, Mia Bluman and Gabriel Maurice Gradner.

These students have already put forward some terrific proposals for improving the KS experience for students and staff alike. We are so very fortunate to have their energy, enthusiasm, and creativity as we move to raise our standards of excellence and make this our most successful year so far.

Get to know

Ms Rocio Sanchez Lopez



Hello, I am Ms Sanchez, and I am the new Head of Spanish. I started my career in London as a Teaching Assistant and then I did my teacher training in the same school. I previously worked in two different schools before joining KSHS.

My favourite thing about teaching Spanish is to be able to share aspects of my culture and my language with my students. I've learnt many things about different cultures during these past few years and that is thanks to the subject I teach.

In my free time I like to go out with friends, watch TV and read. Walking around Central London is another one of my passions. When I have time, I try to swim as much as I can, it's my favourite sport.

In the future I would like to travel a lot more than I get to do now. One of my dreams is to visit Japan one day.

JAM Activity Camps

<https://www.jamactivitycamps.com/>

**Ilford County High School
Barkingside IG6 2JB**

**Mayfield Leisure Centre
Kinfauns Road IG3 9QN**



KIDS HOLIDAY CAMP

**Run by fully qualified PE teachers
with over 20 years experience**

**FROM £25
PER DAY**

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OPTIONAL 8AM
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INFO@JAMACTIVITYCAMPS.COM**



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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 student's wellbeing
- **Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (emergency team):** 020 8496 3000
- **Barnardos:** 0800 008 7005

Let us know . . .

- 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

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.

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. If you are ever concerned that your child is at risk due to very 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](#)) 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