King Solomon High School Newsletter

7 March 2025, 7 Adar 5785

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well and enjoying the return of some long-awaited sunshine.

Thank you to all the parents in years 10 - 13 who have attended the return of our on-site parents evenings. We have had great feedback and families have expressed how pleased they are to be able to meet teachers in person.

As you will see from this fortnight's newsletter, students at King Solomon High School have been participating in a fantastic and varied programme to enrich their personal development. Providing our students with learning experiences that teaches them to be kind, considerate and inclusive young people is very much at the heart of everything we do at King Solomon High School. Students in Years 7 and 10 participated in anti-racism workshops with the organisation Show Racism the Red Card. A group of Year 7 students visited the Jewish Care Centre in Bethnal Green, where they participated in Purim arts and crafts activities with the members of the centre. We were also delighted to welcome back alumni student Sam Tuohy (who now works for Red Bull Formula One) who gave an inspiring talk on careers and aspirations. I am very proud of the glowing feedback I have received about our students' behaviour and participation from all guest speakers. A heartfelt thank you goes to all staff who work so hard to make these events happen, and in particular to Ms Aaronson and Mrs Spurling for being the leaders and organisers behind most of these events.

King Solomon High School proudly supports **International Women's Day**. Women in Great Britain have equal legal rights with men, but sadly this is still not the case for *all women* in the world. Women's rights in Great Britain did not come about by chance but were gained following decades of persistent and committed women's liberation campaigns. We owe immense respect and gratitude to all those who commit their lives to work to end oppression and inequality and to promote inclusion and equality. Despite the progress in women's rights in the UK, sexist and negative attitudes toward women still exist, causing danger and professional barriers to women. Women are also still too often judged by their physical appearance, and this is reinforced in social media. As teachers, parents and carers it is crucial that we challenge sexist attitudes and teach our children/students to be respectful and inclusive of all genders, religions and ethnicities. Children are hugely influential, and in today's society social media plays a significant role in shaping young people's views about the world. It is more important than ever that children hear/see the adults around them model kind and inclusive attitudes and speech. Please take some time to read our **International Women's Day** special feature newsletter, created by the very talented Ms Shepherd.

Staff and students are looking forward to our Purim celebrations next Friday. Some of my fondest memories of school were dressing up for Purim and listening to the Megillah. Purim remembers the survival of the Jewish people following a royal death decree, in Persia in the 5th century BCE. Please read this newsletter to find out more about the religious meaning of the Jewish festival of Purim, celebrations and our expectations with regards to costumes and dress code next Friday.

Thank you to staff, students, parents/carers and governors for your support.

Shabbat Shalom and have a lovely weekend.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Parasha Reflections - Mrs Juggler

This week in synagogue we read parasha Tetzaveh. This portion is slightly unusual as it does not mention Moses at all but rather his brother Aaron. This is because the portion deals with a different kind of leadership; that of Priesthood. Aaron is appointed as the High Priest and will run the acts of worship within the Mishkan (Tabernacle). The Israelites are ruled during this period by two leaders, Moses with his prophetic and political leadership and Aaron, the High Priest who inspires through his spiritual leadership. Why did the Israelites need two leaders? Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z'l suggests that this is the first example of separation of powers and that these two exist to check that neither takes advantage of their power nor exploits others. Moses and Aaron although brothers, do not have the shared history that most siblings have and at the beginning of Exodus they are almost strangers. They do not know each other's strengths and weaknesses. However, despite their differences they learn to lead alongside each other and use their different skills to move the Israelites through their time in the wilderness. What can we take away from this? Firstly, I think it is important to recognise that multiple leaders benefit us all. A system when one person is a leader inevitably end in dictatorship and exploitation; The Israelites were no different. In addition to that the strength of any leadership is learning that sometimes we must work with those that are different to us. We cannot lead alone and to work alongside those who have different skills and perspectives makes us better.

Purim

On Friday 14th March we will be celebrating the festival of Purim. Purim is a time for rejoicing, having fun and wearing fancy dress as well as a time for charity and caring for those less fortunate. On this festival we commemorate the miraculous story of the Persian Jewish community's escape from persecution in the Biblical book of Esther.

What is Purim?

The holiday of Purim marks the Jews' salvation from the plot of Haman, a high officer of the Persian Empire, an advisor to King Achashverosh. Haman's rage against the Jews was incited by the failure of a single Jew, Mordechai, to bow before him as he passed by. Rather than seeking to do away with Mordechai alone for this slight, Haman plotted revenge against Mordechai's entire people.
Haman sought, and gained, permission from King Achashverosh to do as he pleased against the Jews, and Haman took this license and ran with it. He legislated a pogrom that would wipe out every living Jew in the empire on a single, blood-soaked day.

In an act laden with symbolism, Haman cast lots to find the day upon which he and his minions would destroy the Jews.

What is the full story?

The Persian Empire of the 4th century BCE extended over 127 lands, and Jews were spread across the Empire. When King Achashverosh had his wife, Queen Vashti, executed for failing to follow his orders, he arranged a beauty pageant to find a new queen. A Jewish girl named Esther found favour in his eyes and became the new queen, but she hid her nationality. Meanwhile, the Jew-hating

Haman was appointed Prime Minister of the Empire. Mordechai, the leader of the Jews, refused to bow to Haman, which was in defiance of the royal decree. Haman was furious, and he persuaded the King to issue a decree ordering the destruction of all the Jews on the 13th of Adar, a date randomly chosen by drawing lots. Mordechai urged Esther to confront the King and inform him of Haman's plans. Esther, although reluctant at first for fear of her life, agreed. She asked Mordechai to gather all the Jews in Shushan and convince them to spend three days repenting, fasting, and praying to God. On the third day, Esther invited the King and Haman to join her for a feast. At a second feast, Esther revealed her Jewish identity to the King and accused Haman of attempting to destroy her people. Haman was hanged, Mordechai was appointed Prime Minister in his stead, and a new decree was issued, granting the Jews the right to defend themselves against their enemies. On the 13th of Adar, the Jews mobilised and killed many of their enemies. On the 14th of Adar, they rested and celebrated.

What are the religious obligations on Purim?

- To be as joyous as possible
- To give food parcels as gifts
- To gift gifts/ charity to the poor
- To dress up
- To hear the story of the book of Esther (Megillah Esther)

How are we celebrating Purim at school?

School will begin at the normal time of 8.30 (gates open at 8.20) and we will finish at a normal time of 13:20. There are no formal lessons on this day and activities will reflect the joyous nature of the festival. The Purim spirit will be felt across the campus as students at WIJPS will also be celebrating. As is customary on Purim, students should come to school in fancy dress. The following restrictions are in place for fancy dress attire:

- No flags
- No military wear
- Girls can wear trousers
- No revealing clothes
- No football kits

There will be prizes for the best costumes in each year group. Lanyards will still need to be worn by students and kippahs will be needed. The success of the day relies on everyone taking part in a spirit of respect and co-operation; the behaviour policy will apply as on a regular school day.

There will also be opportunities to take part in the special *Purim mitzvot* (commandments) of *Mishloach Manot* (preparing food parcels for friends and neighbours) and *Matanot l'evyonim* (donating money for those in need) on the day. To that end, we are suggesting that students bring in an amount of money (up to £2) to be donated to our school charity, Haven House Children's Hospice; please follow the link to find out more about them https://www.havenhouse.org.uk/

This donation can be paid in advance on your child's Scopay account.

There will be an opportunity to purchase ice-cream/slushes - **£2.50**

Bags of sweets - **£1.50**

These can only be paid for with cash.

We would also ask each student to bring in a donation of packaged food; these will be used to make up food parcels to be distributed to the elderly and needy in the local community. All food donations must be Kosher and below are some suggested items, which can all be purchased in local supermarkets:

- Small cartons of pure fruit juice or bottles of water.
- Chocolate bars (KitKat, Cadbury's Dairy Milk, Galaxy, Mars)
- Ready Salted crisps (**Walkers** only please)
- Small packages of dried fruit (Raisins)

Without your generous donations we would not be able to do such fantastic work in the community.

For more information about what food is Kosher, please refer to this link:
https://online.fliphtml5.com/uengy/azoy/#p=1

The festival of Purim is a showcase for our special community atmosphere, and we look forward to seeing every student's fancy dress costume and receiving their generous donations on the day!

Important Dates

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025

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 (Easter Monday school closed)

First Day of Summer Term - Tuesday 22nd 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	24th April 2025	10th - 21st March 2025	4th April 2025	9th - 20th June 2025	3rd July 2025
8	20th March 2025	27th January - 7th February 2025	27th February 2025	12th - 23rd May 2025	13th June 2025
9	13th February 2025	6th - 17th January 2025	30th January 2025	21st April - 2nd May 2025	15th May 2025
10	6th March 2025 (on-site)	27th January - 7th February 2025	27th February 2025	23rd June - 4th July 2025	17th July 2025
Year Group	**Parents Evening**	**Mock Exams**	**Progress Report 1**	**Mid-year assessment**	**Progress Report 2**
11	9th January 2025 (on-site)	18th - 29th November 2024	19th December 2024	24th Feb - 7th March 2025	20th March 2025
13	6th February 2025 (on-site)	18th - 29th November 2024	19th December 2024	24th Feb- 7th March 2025	20th March 2025

Alan Senitt Upstanders Leadership Programme

On Tuesday 25th February, we had the pleasure of hosting the 3rd seminar of the Alan Senitt Upstanders Leadership Programme for year 10 students. This programme offers interfaith leadership training and students learn to create and deliver projects in their schools and communities.

We had 3 schools visiting - Copthall School, Yavneh College and Hendon School.

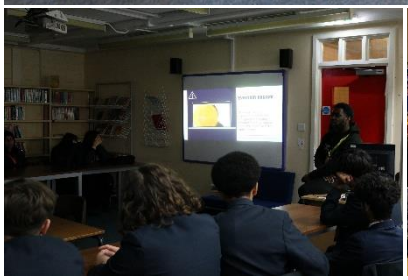
Students took part in some team building games and then each gave a presentation providing an update of what their chosen project is for the year. All of the students spent time getting to know each other and the visitors learnt about the values of King Solomon High School as a Jewish school.

We look forward to seeing the progress of the projects that our students are doing throughout this year.

Well done to the students that took part - Aaliyah Butt, Nafertiti Adam, Kiki Harris, Amelia Palade, Zara Bari, Liba khan, Jason brown, Taha Nasir, Ashriya Bhatia and Anika Saye.

Show Racism the Red Card

This week we were delighted to have Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) at KSHS speaking to our year 7 and year 10 students about racism awareness. SRtRC are the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. It was established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop. Students engaged well in sessions and spoke about the many issues which people of all backgrounds may face growing up and what they can do to help. They spoke about the differences between direct and indirect discrimination and how signs of each of these can be noticed.



Jnetics Event

On the evening of Wednesday 26th February, we were honoured to host an awareness event for Jnetics. Our school hall was filled with over 300 people who all heard about the importance of raising awareness for genetic disorders most commonly found in the Jewish community.

Alumni student Chloe Hakimi spoke about her family and how they have been affected by the genetic disorder Tay-Sachs. Chloe spoke about how events like these for our community are crucial for raising awareness.

If you would like to hear more about the event and learn more about the important work Jnetics does, click the link on the blue play icon.

Jewish Care Centre

On Wednesday 26th February, a group of Year 7 students accompanied by Miss Aaronson and Mrs Spurling visited the Jewish Care Centre in Bethnal Green. Our students and the members of the centre took part in some arts and crafts activities and made gregger's (shakers) for Purim. It was fantastic to see our students engaging with the members and helping them decorate their gregger's.

All of the students really loved volunteering and having a positive impact on the community!

Careers Week

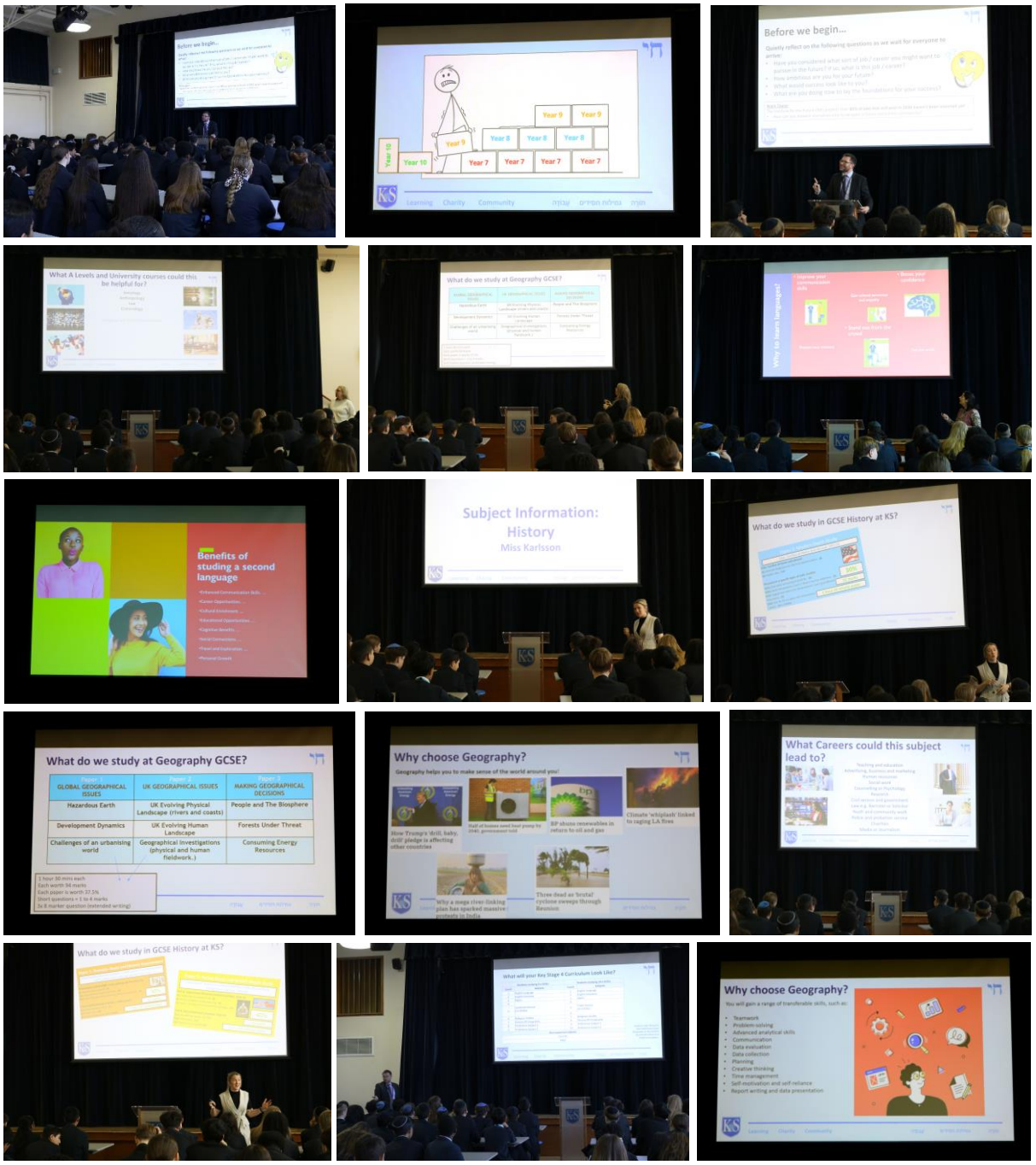
This week is National Careers Week, and we have had a range of assemblies to support students in thinking about their future careers.

Sam Tuohy - Power Unit Calibration Engineer
Red Bull Powertrains Formula One

On Monday 3rd March, year 7 and 8 students heard from Miss Aaronson about the different pathway options on offer to them post-16 and why it is important to start thinking about this in years 7 and 8. They also heard from ex-student Sam Tuohy who left King Solomon in 2016 and has gone on to have a very successful career working for Red Bull Formula One. Sam spoke about his educational journey and how it led him to this successful pathway. Students had the opportunity to ask Sam a range of questions about his journey and career.

GCSE Pathways Assembly

On Wednesday 5th March, year 9 had their GCSE pathways assembly with Mr Beavis. They heard about the different pathways on offer to them and why it is important to choose their options based on future aspirations. Students had presentations from Ms Sanchez Lopez, Ms Slatter, Miss Karlsson and Miss Aaronson who spoke about the benefits of choosing Spanish, Sociology, History and Geography.



ASK Apprenticeships

On Thursday 6th March, year 10 and 11 students had an opportunity to hear from ASK Apprenticeships who informed them about the alternatives to A-levels and university. Students explored the various pathways that are associated with apprenticeships and had the opportunity to ask questions about how to start this process.

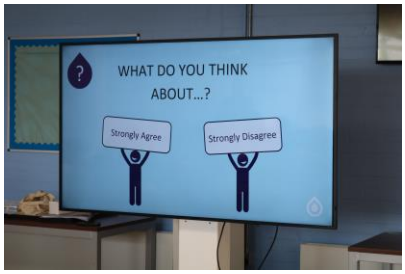
Macfarlanes Law Firm - Careers Fair

On Friday 7th March, Miss Aaronson and Mrs Marks took a cohort of girls to Macfarlanes Law firm where they took part in a careers fair about all the jobs linked to working in Law. Students were able to network with different people and build a better understanding of what it means to work in the field of Law. This was a girls only trip in the spirit of International Women's Day. We were glad to give this opportunity to so many of our girls interested in Law careers.

The students that took part were **Daniela Angheluta, Pearl-Michelle Asher, Aaleyah Bajwa, Tilly Bendon, Eva Forcina, Ruby Goldman, Georgie Graph, Ekin Gumus, Helin Inanc, Maya Jandoo, Avleen Jheeta, Sravya Kandeepan, Mia Kaye, Emaan Khan, Sarah Khan, Olivia Leff, Sinai Ndichu, Halle Rose Mudamburi, Esther Ogungbemi, Meral Saliev and Vlada Stratulat.**

International Women's Day

On Friday 7th March, we had the organisation Jewish Women's Aid come to school to speak to year 11 and 13 students. The session explored the importance of having an International Women's Day and why it is crucial to continue the conversation about improving circumstances for women all around the world. The session was aimed at year 11 and 13 students as they are students who are entering new pathways next year. This was a great opportunity for discussion about key issues facing women both in the workplace and in social settings.



Sports News - Thursday 27/02/25

Year 8/9 Football - King Solomon High School vs Loxford School

3 - 3

KS WIN 5-4 ON PENALTIES

After a rocky start to the game, conceding in the first minute, KS rallied and created several good chances in their quest to restore parity. Unfortunately, they couldn't convert and chasing the game, they conceded another meaning they headed into the break 2-0 down. The second half saw a determined and resilient KS battle hard to restore parity which they did with goals from **Jayden Jones** and **Daniel Pointon.** KS then flipped the tie completely on its head, taking a 3-2 lead into the final minutes with a second goal from **Daniel Pointon**. KS thought they had done enough to secure the victory, but Loxford pulled level right at the end of the tie, sending the game into extra time and then penalties.

After a tense shootout, KS emerged victorious winning 5-4 with penalties scored by **Reece Lewis**, **Olly Student**, **Jayden Jones**, **Morgan Fisszon** and the winning penalty from **Daniel Pointon**.

A massive well done goes to Rhylee Langham who deputised in goal and saved a penalty which helped to take us through to the semi-final of the Redbridge plate.

Joint Player of the Match went to: **Daniel Pointon & Rhylee Langham.**

Well done to Daniel and Rhylee and the entire Year 8/9 football squad! -

Rhylee Langham, **Yoni Saltman**, **Daniel Pointon**, **Reece Lewis**, **Luca Nathan**, **Olly Student**, **Aaron Blitz**, **Danyel Khan**, **Keano Iyeli**, **Charlie Levy**, **Morgan Fiszzon**, **Keaton Jay**, **Ethan Green**, **Jayden Jones**, **Jacob Speakman** and **Abubakar Kuluten**.

World Book Day

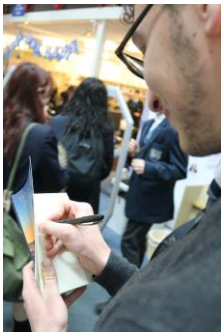
Thursday 6th March was World Book Day, and we marked the occasion in school by decorating the library and running a wide variety of activities at break and lunch time.

We also gave every student a World Book Day token which they can take to any major bookshop and swap for a book they have on offer. To promote reading for pleasure we had a book swap/take which enabled students to come to the library and take books that are being withdrawn from the collection. This was a huge success!

We also ran several competitions including writing your own Spine Poem, creating a book cover, writing an article for the school newsletter and writing a 500-word short story which will be entered into the BBC Young Writer's competition.

We were honoured to have a book reading and Q&A session with Ethan Clerk one of our Year 13 students who has recently published his first book "The Lost Tale of Socratis" (on sale on Amazon **https://amzn.eu/d/cAwJZol**).

World Book Day 2025



Upcoming Trips

The Natural History Museum

As part of our commitment to enhance every child's personal development at King Solomon High School, we are delighted to announce our first trip of the year. The Humanities department are running a trip to the Natural History Museum for all year 9 students. The trip will take place on **Tuesday 18th March** for students in forms **9G**,**9K** and **9M** and on **Wednesday 19th March** for students in forms **9Z**, **9A** and **9P**.

While at the museum, students will take part in a workshop and visit a number of exhibitions.

Letters have been sent home containing all of the information. Your child's place on the trip will be confirmed once payment has been received via Scopay.com.

We look forward to welcoming all year 9 students on this exciting trip!

Shakespeare's Globe - Macbeth

The Performing Arts Department are excited to announce that they will be running a trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to watch a performance of Macbeth. The trip will take place on the evening **Tuesday 18th March** from **5:00pm** until **10:00pm**.

Tickets for the show are free, but students will have to pay for their train fare which costs £6.40. The trip is open to all Year 8 and 9 students but there are only 80 tickets available, so you'll have to get in quickly to secure your place.

Letters have been sent home but if you would like more information please contact or go and see Mr Coates.

Get To Know

Mrs Victoria Hurst

My name is Victoria Hurst and I am the PA (Personal Assistant) to the Headteacher, Ms Phillips and I have been working here since the end of October 2024. Previously, I worked at an Independent Prep School for 10 years as a Head's PA and an HR Administrator.

I am passionate about the impact my role as a Personal Assistant has in supporting the Headteacher and the wider school community. I take great pride in ensuring the smooth running of Ms Phillips day, allowing her to focus on strategic leadership and improving student outcomes.

What I love most is the opportunity to contribute to a positive school environment and knowing that my role indirectly supports staff, students, and parents; makes my work deeply fulfilling.

Outside of school I am a bit of a gym bunny! I love going to the gym, doing weights, and classes and wearing myself out at fitness bootcamps. I love dancing and music and often go to festivals in the summer.

An interesting fact about me is that I ran the Hackney half marathon last year, with my daughter, who had never run in her life and have also won a 'holding the plank position' competition for 4 minutes!

Gaming and Gambling - Free Webinar

Ilford Police Station Open Day

Ilford Police Station Open Day

Saturday 8th March 2025

11am to 4pm

Police Open Day - Take a tour of our custody and cells.
Learn about our vehicles and the equipment we use.
Meet specialist and our local officers who serve in the community.
Come along and see what we do.

- **Custody Tour**
- **Vintage Police Car**
- **Police Vehicles**
- **Celebrating International Women's Day**
- **Scenes of Crime Officer**
- **Public & Personal Safety Training Officers**
- **Mounted Branch***
- **Dog Unit***
- **Bike Marking**

*subject to operational demands

Scan the Eventbrite QR Code for more Information
This is a free event, no booking required

Ilford Police Station
270-294 High Road
Ilford
IG1 1GT

To ask any questions about this event, please go to Slido.com and enter the event code:

#EAIlfordOpenDay
(case sensitive)

slido

METROPOLITAN POLICE | MORE TRUST | LESS CRIME | HIGH STANDARDS

International Women's Day | TRUST | London Borough of Redbridge | St John Ambulance | A New Met for London

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.

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).

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

NHS

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