King Solomon High School Newsletter

9 June 2025, 13 Sivan 5785

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. We had a positive return to school last week, following our extended half term for Shavuot. Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to show dedication to their public exams, which continue for a further two weeks. Year 11 and Year 13 students can then relax and enjoy a long and well-earned summer holiday.

I am delighted to report that our new morning gate arrangements have been working well. We now open the gate at 8.10am and there are three senior leaders, plus a security guard monitoring the public car park and Starch House Lane, ushering students into the school grounds. Mr Tomene has also been walking as far as the roundabout and the library to get students into school swiftly. Students have responded well to these new routines and have followed all instructions given to them. Several parents who use the public car park in the morning have commented that these changes are welcomed.

I would like to thank all the staff who arranged our Shavout activities on Friday. The ice-creams were a lovely treat enjoyed by many students and staff. Thank you to all the Shinshinim (Israeli scouts) who planned and led events.

Thank you also to all the parents, carers and community members who have generously donated to our Mezuzah fundraiser. There is still time to donate. Please see the pages ahead for further information.

A huge well done and congratulations to

- Paige Harris on her major part in the musical Six.
- Olivia MacQueen for being invited to Downing Street with JLGB for VE Day

Just a reminder that Ms Davies is now our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). Any safeguarding concerns should be sent to **safeguarding@kshsonline.uk.**

Wishing you all well.

Ms Phillips

Headteacher

Parasha Reflections - Mrs Juggler

This week's parasha encompasses the Priestly Blessing (Birkat Kohahim in Hebrew). This is an ancient benediction recited by the priests (*kohanim*) in the Mishkan and later the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is recited in synagogues most commonly during the festivals of Pesach, Shavuot, and Succot. It is a highly spiritual act for the Priests and the entire congregation.

You can see a video of this taking place at the Western Wall in Jerusalem **here**. The words of this blessing are as follows:

The LORD bless you and protect you!
The LORD deal kindly and graciously with you!
The LORD show his face towards you and grant you peace!

This blessing is seen by many as a divine hug. It is a way of enabling the Priests to become closer to G-d. Even though the temple is no longer standing, and the Priests have no sacrificial role, they still live their lives according to the Priestly customs so when the Messiah comes and the temple is rebuilt, they can resume their role of enabling Jews to build their connection to God. Many religious families bless their children every shabbat with these same words because ultimately in bestowing an ancient blessing at important times in people's lives, can help make God's presence felt in the world around us.

Important Dates

SPRING TERM 2025

Last Day of the School Year - Tuesday 29th July 2025. Early closure (1:30pm)

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, Report

Year Group	End of Year Assessment	Progress Report 2
7	9th - 20th June	3rd July
8		13th June
10	23rd June - 4th July	17th July

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are excited to inform you that we are offering the following after school clubs:

Club	When	Sign Up
Athletics Club	Monday 3:20 pm - 4:20 pm	https://forms.office.com/e/vSCC4J0QEj
Hip-Hop/Street Dance Club	Wednesday 3:20 pm - 4:20 pm	https://forms.office.com/e/KxcLbPT2Qk
Contemporary Dance Club	Thursday 3:20 pm - 4:20 pm	https://forms.office.com/e/C1hJfYW5K6

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the sign-up form and provide your consent using the links listed in the table above. Please ensure that you complete the form prior to your child attending the club. Your child must bring in KSHS PE kit to participate.

After the club, students will be dismissed from main reception at 4:20pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Larkin (Head of PE) on - rlarkin9.317@kshsonline.uk

Sponsor a Mezuzah

Following our recent refurbishment, we have now purchased mezuzahs for a number of doors. A mezuzah is a piece of parchment inscribed with specific Hebrew verses from the Torah, which Jewish people affix in a small case to the right-hand side of doors (apart from bathrooms). An example of this is shown on the right.

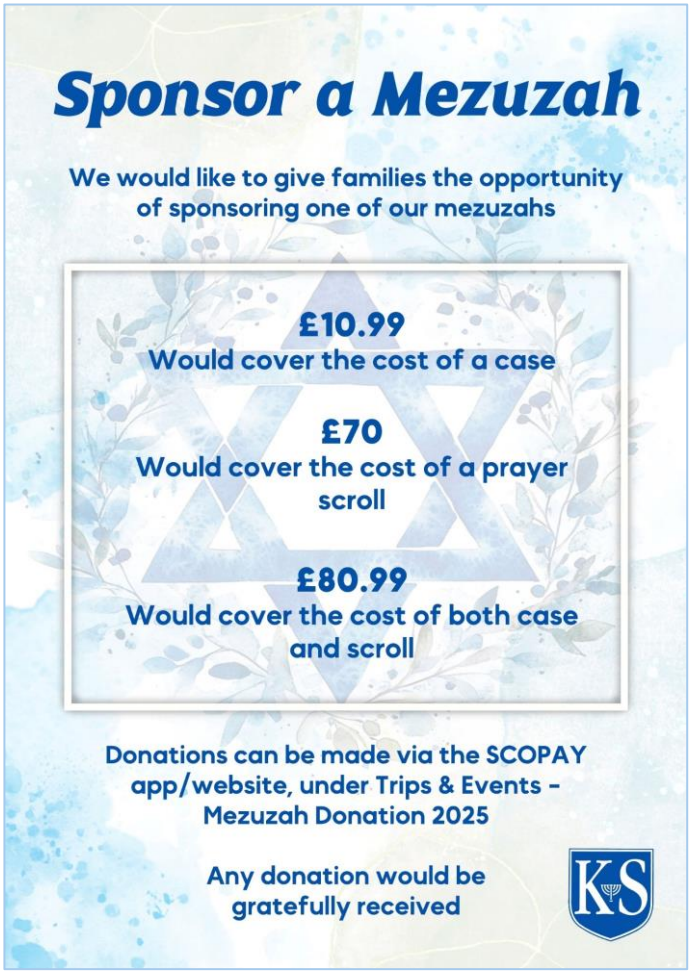
We would like to give families the opportunity of sponsoring one of our mezuzahs. Any donation would be gratefully received, please see what certain donation amounts would cover:

- **£10.99 - would cover the cost of a case**
- **£70 - would cover the cost of a prayer scroll**
- **£80.99 - would cover the cost of both case and scroll**

If the above amounts are not suitable, please feel free to make a donation of your choice.

Donations can be made via the SCOPAY app/website, under Trips & Events - Mezuzah Donation 2025. Please fill out your details before making a donation.

Thank you in advance for any donation you can give.



Shavuot 2025

On Friday 6th June, we celebrated Shavuot in school with a special programme of events.

We were very lucky to be joined by 6 Shinshinim (Israeli scouts) who are working across different schools in London as well as our very own Roni and Erez who have been doing amazing work with us all year. The Shinshinim ran a range of different session for students including, team building tasks, information sessions about Shavuot and teaching students a traditional Israeli dance called the Hora. At break time they set up fairground-style stalls for the students to enjoy and we also sold ice cream as it is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot.

A great day was had by all!

Shavuot 2025

World Environment Day

World Environment Day is the biggest international day for the environment. Observed annually on June 5, this UN Day brings together millions of people across the globe in a shared mission to safeguard and restore our planet, empowering governments, businesses, communities and individuals to drive sustainable change.

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1973, World Environment Day has become the largest global environmental for environmental outreach, engaging a vast global audience across more than 150 countries in tackling today's most pressing environmental challenges.

With World Environment Day in mind, we invited some guest speakers into school to speak with our GCSE Geography students.

On Monday (19th May) we were fortunate to have a visit from civil servants from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero who came in to discuss the importance of the UK trying to achieve net zero in our emissions and the various methods they are employing to try and achieve this.

Our guests also spoke to students about the various jobs that are available through working as a civil servant and how students can attain these jobs through either apprenticeships or degrees.

VE Day Celebrations - Olivia MacQueen (Year 7)

To mark the historic moment the Second World War ended in Europe in 1945, events took place around the UK at the beginning of May. Street parties, concerts and a military flypast were just some of the ways the country has marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

Year 7 Student Olivia MacQueen was lucky enough to be invited to attend a street party at Downing Street hosted by Sir Kier Starmer as well as the VE day concert held at Royal Horse Guard Parade. Below she describes her memorable experience.

Olivia MacQueen - Year 7

"I had an amazing opportunity to go to the Prime minister's street party through a Jewish youth group (JLGB). I attend this youth group every Monday after school. JLGB is an organisation that is part of the youth united foundation which is a network of youth groups set up by King Charles III.

As part of this group, I was invited to attend the street party for VE day on Downing Street. When I was at the street party, I had the honour of meeting Sir Kier Starmer and his wife Victoria. We talked about what I do at JLGB and Jewish activities, Kier Starmer's wife and children are Jewish. Whilst at the party I also met a World War II veteran (Rob). He was talking to me about what he did in World War II and a tragic story about his parents. Rob was at the incredible age of 104 turning 105 this year!

At the end of the party, I was given a goodie bag with a VE day commemorative mug and plate.

As part of the celebrations, I was also invited to attend the VE day concert at the Royal Horse Guard Parade on the 8th of May. I was able to see the royal box, where his Majesty King Charles III and her Majesty Queen Camilla were sitting, along with Prince William and Princess Kate. In keeping with the theme, we had to wear clothes with the colours of red, white and blue.

The concert went on from 8:00pm to 10:30pm with amazing songs and some tragic stories of World War II soldiers throughout all of it.

I loved every bit of the street party and concert and hope to have an opportunity like this again in the future."

VE Day Celebrations - Olivia MacQueen (Year 7)

A Star is Born - Paige Harris (Year 10)

Budding musical theatre performer Paige Harris (Year 10) has long dreamed of playing the leading lady in the West End. Recently, her dreams became reality as she was handed the role of Jane Seymour in a production of Six at the Brookside Theatre. Although not the West End stage just yet, Paige is certainly getting closer to her dream. Below she describes her performing arts journey.

Congratulations Paige!

Paige Harris - Year 10

"From the age of six my dream has been to be an actress in the West End. Musical theatre is my passion and being up on stage is my happy place.

I go to Finch stage school where I train on a Tuesday and Saturday, and I help teach the younger school on a Wednesday. I also have singing lessons once a fortnight.

As much as I adore dancing, my favourite is singing and I hope to one day play Fantine in Les Mis, Elphaba in Wicked, Beverley Bass in Come From Away and many more leading ladies. My dream of playing Jane Seymour in Six is being met as I've just been given the role in Six the musical - teen edition at the Brookside theatre in Romford. Hopefully one day I'll be able to play that role in the West End too.

I've been in four pantomimes which I thoroughly enjoyed and have sung as a soloist at Crazy Coqs in Piccadilly and Piano Smithfield's, Barbican.

Having just passed my grade 6 ballet with distinction, I am now preparing for my 4th annual Finch show which I'm really excited about as it's my favourite time of year. I am also preparing for my grade 5 Lamda exam on 22nd June.

I have been in performances of Annie, Matilda, Barnum, Beauty and the Beast, Wicked and Shrek locally with my theatre school 'Music theatre Essex' that is run in the school holidays.

I also recently performed at the Princes Theatre in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex as a soloist with the performing arts college I hope to attend.

As well as shows, I have also been in commercials for Iceland, John Lewis, Argos, School Cuts and many more. My experience doing modelling has helped me in pursuing my career as I have learned that being rejected for a role comes as part of the territory and not to dwell on it as there will always be another audition/casting.

My plan after GCSE's is to study technical theatre and stage management at college before heading on to performing arts college at 18.

I am looking forward to performing in the school showcase at the end of the school year.

If you would like to see Paige starring as Jayne Seymour in Six at the Brookside Theatre, Romford click the following link - **Brookside Theatre - Six**

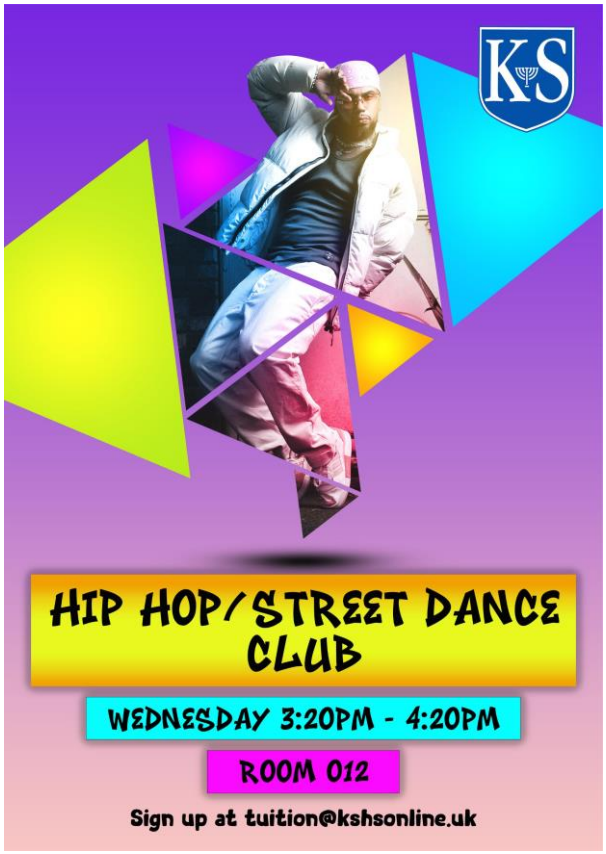
Paige Harris (Year 10)

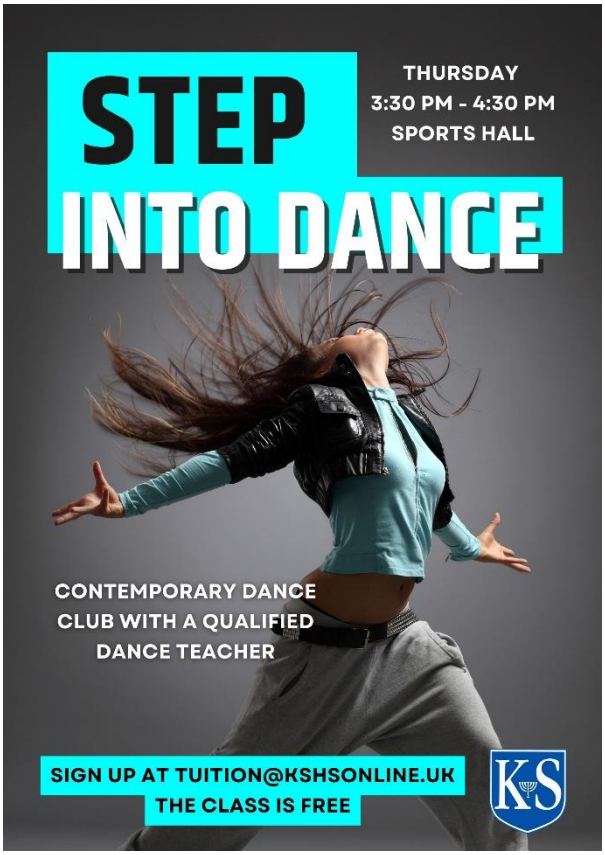
Performing Arts

Dance Clubs

The Performing Arts Team offers a range of dance clubs for students to participate in. On Wednesday after school in room 012, Miss Daniel teaches Hip Hop and Street dance and on Thursday Ms Rachel Newby from Step into Dance offers a contemporary dance club in the Sports Hall. Both clubs run from 3:30 until 4:30. We would love to see your child come along and participate.

If you would like any further information about either club, please email our performing arts administrator (Miss J Mallach) on tuition@kshsonline.uk and she will be able to support you.





Alicia Paulino and Nikola Lesniak

Alicia Paulino and Nikola Lesniak (pictured below), who are excitedly preparing for our Performing arts showcase, have taken some time to explain why they love dance and why they think people should come along to dance. Thank you to both of them for taking the time to share their thoughts.

Alicia Paulino - Year 8

"My name is Alicia, and I've been dancing for seven years. I specialize in musical theatre, jazz, and contemporary dance. Over the years, I've had the incredible opportunity to perform at several prestigious West End venues, including His Majesty's Theatre, Sadler's Wells, the Royal Opera House and more.

I love dance because it gives me the freedom to express myself and connect with others without needing words. It challenges me, inspires me, and brings me so much joy. Whether I'm in the studio rehearsing or performing in front of an audience, dance is where I feel most at home. I'm always looking to improve, take on new challenges and share my love for dance with the world.

I think others should dance because it's really fun and a great way to express yourself. It helps you build confidence, make new friends, and stay active. Dance isn't just about learning steps, it's about showing who you are and how you feel. You don't have to be perfect to enjoy it, and there's always something new to try. I think everyone should give it a go because it can make you feel really happy and proud of what you can do."

Nikola Lesniak - Year 8

"My name is Nikola, and I have been dancing for 6-6 ½ years. I started inexperienced with no idea what I was getting myself into but now I have grown into the dancer I am today with a love for dance.

I love to dance because I don't know what I would do without it. It makes me feel alive and my dance friends and dance teachers are my favourite people ever.

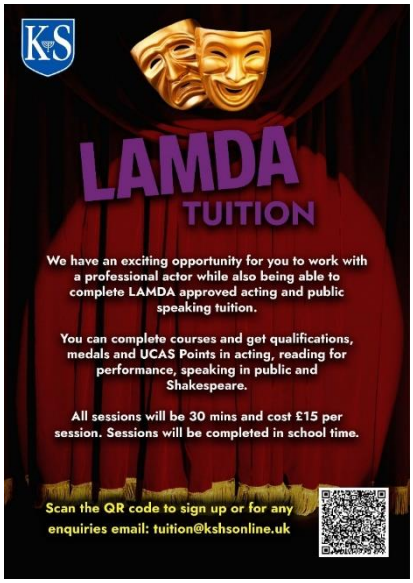
Other people should try out dance because it's fun to try something new and you might enjoy it and continue dancing."

Performing Arts - Tuition Opportunities

Are you an aspiring musician or performer?

At King Solomon High School, we offer both LAMDA Public Speaking/Acting Tuition and Music tuition. There are so many benefits for your child to engage in 1 on 1 tuition.

If you would like your child to sign up for tuition, you can scan the QR codes on the leaflets below or alternatively, you can email Miss Mallach on **tuition@kshsonline.uk** for more information.



Get to Know

Mrs Stephanie Van Graan

I'm Mrs van Graan, and I have been proudly working at King Solomon High School for the past 22 years as a PE teacher, and currently as Head of Year 8.

I am passionate about promoting the physical and mental well-being of all students, helping them to grow in confidence, resilience and ambition both in and out of the classroom.

Outside of school, I enjoy running, reading, baking and cooking - anything creative or that keeps me active!

A fun fact about me is that I'm originally from South Africa, and I like to bring a little of that sunshine and energy into everything I do.

Looking ahead, my hope is to continue making a positive difference in the lives of young people, helping them to become kind, healthy and successful individuals who are ready for whatever challenges the future holds.

Redbridge Photography Awards 2025

Safeguarding Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Miss Davies (Associate Assistant Headteacher)

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 fill in a **Medicines Consent Form** and hand in to Student Services 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