KSHS NEWSLETTER

Year 8 and 9 students with Miss Mallach, pictured alongside special guest Kimba

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a busy and exciting fortnight as we approached the half-term break, with a range of meaningful events and celebrations taking place across the school.

Last week, we marked the festival of Tu B'Shvat, which falls on the 15th of Shevat in the Jewish calendar and was observed this year on Monday 2nd February. Often referred to as the 'New Year for Trees', Tu B'Shvat celebrates the time when the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel begin to emerge from their winter rest and start a new fruit-bearing cycle.

In school, we commemorated the occasion through our participation in *Just One Tree Day*. Students and staff were invited to swap an item of uniform for something green in exchange for a £1 donation, helping to fund tree planting and take positive action for our planet. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and support for this initiative. Students also enjoyed taking part in Tu B'Shvat-themed activities led by JLGB, which were both engaging and educational.

Alongside these celebrations, we were delighted to host several literacy-focused initiatives, expertly organised by Miss Mallach. Last Thursday, a group of students from Years 7–9 attended an inspiring event at Redbridge Town Hall featuring author Nathanael Lessore as part of the

Redbridge Book Awards. The event provided students with valuable insight into the writing process and the journey to publication.

Earlier this week, we were also pleased to welcome hip-hop poet, author and educator Kimba to the school. He delivered dynamic and high-energy workshops to Years 7–9, exploring the power of language and self-expression. Students were thoroughly engaged and left feeling inspired by his message.

Read on for more details about everything that has been happening across the school!

We would like to wish all our families a pleasant, restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Get to Know

Get to Know MR WOODCRAFT

I am Mr Woodcraft, Head of History at King Solomon High School, and I have been part of the school since September 2020. I am passionate about teaching History across all year groups and ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students.

My favourite period is the Early Modern era, as I completed my dissertation on King Charles I and whether it was possible to counsel him effectively. However, I also greatly enjoy teaching Medieval and Modern History. It is fascinating to explore how people's ideas have changed over time and to examine how past events continue to shape the world today, particularly when linked to current global affairs.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family. I have two sons - my eldest is four years old and my youngest is eight months - and I love taking them out and meeting friends for meals.

An interesting fact about me is that my wife is from the Philippines, and I have travelled there twice: once during the summer and once over Christmas and New Year.

Looking ahead, I hope to visit many more countries around the world with my wife and children.

News

Mazal Tov to **Mason Pomerance** and **Yonatan Shaanan-Eisen**, who laid tefillin for the first time last Tuesday morning during Shacharit!

Around the time of their Bar Mitzvah at age 13, Jewish boys begin the practice of putting on tefillin each weekday morning. Many boys start practicing a few weeks or months before their Bar Mitzvah, making this an exciting milestone on the journey to Jewish adulthood.

Dates for your diary

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February
HALF TERM | School Closed

Tuesday 3rd March
Purim | Early close at the end of period 4

Thursday 5th March
Year 10 Parents Evening (In-person)
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Friday 27th March
Last day of the Spring Term | Early close at the end of period 4

Thursday 19th March
Year 9 Key Stage 3 - 4 Progression Evening
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April
PASSOVER/SPRING HOLIDAY | School Closed

Upcoming Trips

Year 7 Cultural Capital Trip
Tower of London
Tuesday 24th February 2026
9:30am - 3:30pm

Year 9 Theatre Trip
Hadestown
Thursday 26th February 2026
Matinee Performance: 2:30pm

Top Achievers - Reward Points

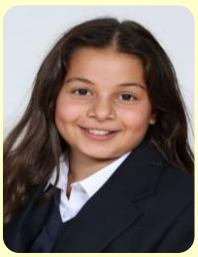
Congratulations to the students who received the highest number of reward points over the last two weeks. Their consistent hard work, positive attitude, and dedication to both academics and school values have been recognised by staff.

The students with the highest number of reward points are:

Student	Form
Diya Sood	10Z
Zack Mumba	10Z
Naitik Makwana	10Z

The students with the highest reward points in each year group are:

Student	Form
Mila Shalom	7K
Alexandra Ciolacu	8P
Keaton Jay	9M
Diya Sood	10Z
Jisan Rahaman	11K


Mila Shalom 7K

Alexandra Ciolacu 8P

Keaton Jay 9M

Diya Sood 10Z

Zack Mumba 10Z

Naitik Makwana 10Z

Jisan Rahaman 11K

Tu B'Shvat

Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year of the Trees, took place on 1st–2nd February 2026 and marks the beginning of spring in Israel, celebrating nature, sustainability, and care for the environment.

On Wednesday 4th February, to mark the occasion, our school took part in JUST ONE Tree Day. Students and staff were encouraged to wear something green and bring in £1 to help plant a tree, joining schools around the world in taking positive action for our planet.

JUST ONE Tree is a non-profit organisation that plants trees globally to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere and restore biodiversity. To read more about JUST ONE Tree, click **here.**

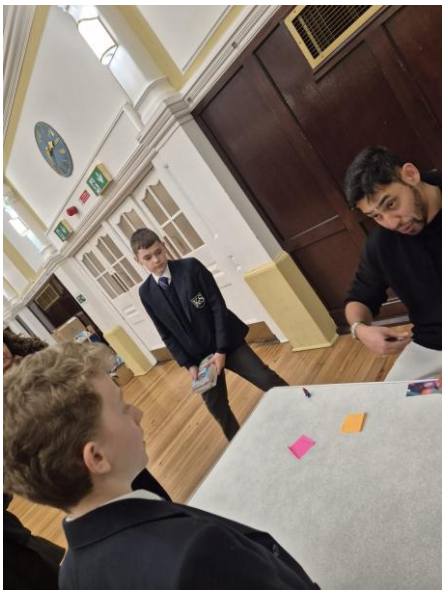
Continuing the festival celebrations, students took part in a range of Tu B'Shvat–themed activities facilitated by JLGB. These included a lively Tu B'Shvat trivia quiz, as well as creative arts and crafts, where students created paintings using fresh leaves as templates.

Students loved getting involved and celebrating the festival in such a fun and interactive way.

Author Event with Nathanael Lessore

On Thursday 5th February, as part of the Redbridge Book Awards, 18 students from Years 7 - 9 attended an exciting author event at Redbridge Town Hall with acclaimed author Nathanael Lessore. He spoke openly about his journey to becoming a writer, the experiences that shaped him, and how real-life events inspired his books.

Students engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and Nathanael's honest and relatable responses made the session both inspiring and memorable. He also signed copies of his novels - *King of Nothing*, *Steady For This* and *What Happens Online* - now available in the school library.



Kimba

On Monday 9th February, we were excited to welcome Kimba, a London-based hip hop poet, author, and educator, who brought the hall to life with high-energy sessions for Years 7, 8 and 9. Using rap and spoken word, Kimba showed students how powerful language can be - exploring themes of hope, resilience, and self-expression in a way that students found engaging and inspiring. Kimba also very generously took the time to sign books and pose for photographs with students, making the visit an even more memorable experience.

Over the past two years, he has visited more than 150 schools, inspiring over 70,000 young people aged 4–16 with his fresh approach to creative writing and literature.

Events

Midweek mending at the FREE Fullwell Cross Repair Cafe

Fullwell Cross Library, 140 High St, Ilford IG6 2EA
Thursday 19th February, 12:00pm – 3:00pm

- Diagnose and fix your broken, small household electricals with The Restart Project.
- Bring a bike for running repairs with Trailnet CIC.
- On the spot clothing repairs with Sew London Project and JoyZ.
- Recycle end-of-life small electrical items or cables at the pop-up recycle point.
- Refresh your wardrobe at the clothes swap rail - bring up to two items of quality clothing to swap.
- We do not accept - children's clothes, shoes, underwear, socks or tights.

team. repair

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

Free Gadget Repair Workshops at Fullwell Cross Library (for ages 10+)

Fullwell Cross Library, 140 High St, Ilford IG6 2EA
Multiple Dates - click here to check availability

Lisa from East London Waste Authority (ELWA) will be leading hands-on workshops teaching young people real STEM skills by repairing real gadgets using Team Repair kits!

The workshop will involve providing young people with the tools and knowledge to fix the same broken gadget. The workshop is aimed to allow the young people to work independently, and Lisa will be on hand to help when needed.

The gadget will be a retro games console.

Book now to guarantee your place! Booking is advised but there will be some kits available for some people to join on the day.

- Suitable for ages 10 years and over.
- Adult supervision is required for the workshops.
- Workshop 1 will start promptly at 12.15pm | Workshop 2 will start promptly at 1.30pm
- The workshops will be approximately 60 minutes in length