

June Update

Dear KLA parents and families,

At the end of a lovely first week back after the half-term break, I am writing to share some information for the remaining weeks and early notification of a change to our drop-off routines at KLA from September. Oh, and toilets!

Warm weather uniform

As I am sure everyone has noted, the weather forecast currently for next week is for wall-to-wall sunshine and temperatures between 25 and 30 degrees. As always, the health and welfare of our students is my first priority, and I do not believe that full school uniform in that weather is going to be conducive to the levels of comfort that best suit learning. Therefore, from Monday, school uniform rules will be relaxed (note I said 'relaxed' and not 'removed'!)

To ensure that pupils are able to be cool enough for comfort, **the wearing of the school blazer, tie and jumper will be optional. All other items of uniform expectations remain the same.** I trust that you agree that this is a sensible alteration. I do not see much sense in changing protocols from week to week based on ever-changing weather forecasts, so this amendment will remain in place until the end of the term, with normal expectations returning when we do in September.

KLA Expansion Proposal

The consultation period for the possible expansion of KLA pupil numbers from 180 per year group to 240, proposed for September 2025, has now completed.

The process now has moved onto the necessary building projects that will support this expansion. The Local Authority have asked me to include the current draft plans for this building work (attached to this email), and have asked me to make the community aware that Children's Services will be holding an informal exhibition event on Tuesday 4th July at King's Lynn Academy, between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. This is an open event, and no booking is necessary. More information can be found in the attached letter.

Car Park Use

As part of the planning work being developed for the new buildings in the expansion project, we have been taking advice on the school travel plan. As part of this work, increased and improved bike parking, as well as a new bike entrance to KLA has been proposed in the plan, which is very welcome as over 200 pupils come to school every day by bike!

However, one area that has been flagged as a concern is the constant movement of vehicles into and out of the car park at the beginning and end of the school day. I share these concerns and have for some time been becoming more worried about the health and safety implications of this. In my time here, the school has already almost doubled in pupil numbers, and will increase substantially again in the years to come, which has made this now too dangerous to manage – especially with the likelihood of construction and plant traffic being added through the building project.

To ensure that we act to mitigate any such risk therefore, from September the school car park will be open to only staff, buses and official visitors each morning and afternoon, and we must ask that parents drop children off away from the premises. We are currently the only secondary school that I know of that allows such car-park access, and while this may have been possible in a school of 550, it is simply no longer safe. While I appreciate that this may cause some complications for parents, it is necessary to ensure that our pupils are kept safe from traffic in the car park. I will write again to

remind all parents of this when we return in September, and the signage at the car park entrance will be changed over the summer to reinforce this message. I thank all parents affected in advance for their support in helping to assure pupil safety.

School Attendance

I have been asked again by the Department for Education to reinforce the importance of pupil attendance at school – currently our attendance is above national average in Years 7 and 9, but sadly well below our expectations in Year 8 and, worryingly, Year 10 as they head into GCSE year. I have been reminded by the DfE that very, very few school leave or holiday requests can be authorised in term-time, and they have begun more rigorously enforcing Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) and court action for unauthorised or persistent term-time absence. I do urge all parents to be aware of this development, which comes as consistent surveys and data releases show that school absence nationally is now over two times higher than it used to be pre-pandemic.

Toilet Troubles

As you may be aware we are currently managing an issue with our school toilet blocks – unfortunately one of the sewer drains that feeds three of our five toilet blocks has a subsidence issue that we are working with our insurers to rectify. Unfortunately, this may take some time, and currently we are managing on 2/5 toilet blocks. Acknowledging that this means that toilets can be very busy at break and lunch times, we are allowing pupils to go during lessons if they really need to (whilst still preferring that they do so at social times if at all possible) and we are supervising the entrances to the toilet blocks very closely to ensure that there is sufficient ‘flow rate’ at the busiest times (if you will pardon the pun!). I do need to thank our brilliant students who have simply adjusted to the temporary changes wonderfully well and with no fuss at all. Hopefully this will be rectified over the summer, but the insurance status of this means that I cannot guarantee this.

Year 11

Year 11 are now well into the GCSE examination season, and we are so proud and pleased with how they have conducted themselves throughout this challenging period. We look forward to the leavers’ celebration next week and prom in a few weeks, once all the examinations are complete, and obviously wish every single one of them success both for their exam outcomes and for the future more widely.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes,



Alan Fletcher