

Message from Mrs Farenden



As we reach the end of the summer term and another successful school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many achievements, experiences and memorable moments shared across our Knightsfield community. It has been a fantastic year and I am incredibly proud of all that our students and staff have accomplished together.

As always, this has been an exceptionally busy but highly rewarding term. One of the highlights was our Year 10 students' work experience placements in June. They spent a week working in a variety of settings and represented Knightsfield superbly. We were delighted with the positive feedback received from employers and our students should be extremely proud of the maturity, professionalism and enthusiasm they demonstrated throughout the week.

Students across the school have also benefited from a wide range of educational visits and career-related learning opportunities this term. Our Year 11 students enjoyed their traditional leavers' trip to Thorpe Park, while our most recent whole-school visit to Hertfordshire Zoo proved both informative and enjoyable for everyone involved. It has been wonderful to see our students' embracing opportunities beyond the classroom and developing their confidence through these valuable experiences.

This term also saw us host our very first Parent Coffee Morning in June for existing and prospective families. The event was a tremendous success, providing a valuable opportunity for parents to connect with one another and with members of our school community. The comfort of our air-conditioned hall was certainly appreciated on one of the hottest days of the year! On that note, I am particularly proud that Knightsfield continued to provide a first-class learning environment throughout the recent spell of hot weather. By making effective use of our air-conditioned teaching spaces, we remained fully open and ensured that students could continue learning in comfort. This was only possible thanks to the dedication, flexibility and professionalism of our outstanding staff team and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their continued commitment.

Our Activities Week provided a fitting end to the term and included another opportunity for students to support our Charity of the Year, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Through their sponsored walk in the forest, students raised valuable funds for this worthy cause while enjoying the benefits of being active outdoors. We also held our very first Knightsfield Sports Day, which showcased excellent teamwork, determination and house spirit, alongside plenty of healthy competition and fun.

As another successful year draws to a close, I would like to thank all our parents, carers and families for your continued support. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our students thrive and we greatly value the encouragement and trust you show us throughout the year.

On behalf of everyone at Knightsfield, I wish you and your family a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September for another exciting year ahead.

Year 11 Leavers & Thorpe Park

As a well-deserved treat after completing their exams, our Year 11 leavers enjoyed their final school trip together with a fantastic day at Thorpe Park. After months of studying, revision and hard work, it was the perfect opportunity to relax, have fun and celebrate everything they have achieved. The day was filled with smiles, excitement and memorable moments and it was wonderful to see the students enjoying one last adventure together as a year group, creating special memories that they will carry with them long after they leave school. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and wish them every success and happiness in their next chapter.



Food and Farming:

The Food and Farming Event in early July provided a wonderful and engaging opportunity for our students to learn about food production, farming and environmental sustainability. Through a range of hands-on activities, including food tastings, tractor rides, livestock displays and educational exhibits, students explored the journey of food from farm to fork while gaining valuable insights into modern agriculture. The event offered a rich and memorable learning experience, bringing classroom topics to life in an exciting and meaningful way. As always, this invaluable off-site visit helped our students develop a greater understanding of the world around them, while also building important communication, social and independence skills. We are incredibly grateful for opportunities such as these, which inspire curiosity, support academic learning and create lasting memories for our students.

Activities Week

Our annual Activities Week was a fantastic celebration of learning, creativity, teamwork and fun! Throughout the week, students enjoyed a range of exciting experiences while also having the opportunity to raise money for our sponsored charity, EHAAT during our Walk in the Woods event, demonstrating their kindness and commitment to supporting others. A particular highlight was our dedicated Art Day, where students took part in inspiring workshops led by the talented artist Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq, creating wonderful artwork and exploring their creativity throughout the day. On Wednesday, the whole school visited Hertfordshire Zoo, where students loved learning about animals, conservation and the important work the zoo does to help protect wildlife. Thursday brought two much-loved events, our energetic Sports Day and the annual visit to Stanborough Lakes, giving everyone the chance to challenge themselves, work together and enjoy the outdoors. We rounded off the week on Friday with our special end of term awards assembly, recognising our students' many achievements and successes. It was a lovely way to end a truly wonderful week, we are incredibly proud of everyone who helped make Activities Week such a success.



Knightsfield School Careers

This term, our careers provision has gone from strength to strength, providing students with a wide range of exciting opportunities to explore their future aspirations and develop key employability skills. From engaging Careers Academy workshops and insightful careers guidance talks to realistic mock interviews, students have been encouraged to think ambitiously about the many pathways available to them. These valuable experiences have not only raised aspirations but have also helped students to build confidence, communication skills and a deeper understanding of the world of work. Alongside a variety of careers-focused trips and activities, careers education has been thoughtfully incorporated into our whole-school curriculum, ensuring that learning is meaningful, relevant and connected to future opportunities. We are incredibly proud of our students' enthusiasm and engagement and look forward to building on this success in the new academic year.



Dates for the Diary

- Wednesday 2nd September** - Year 5, 6, 7 and 12 to attend
- Thursday 3rd September** - all pupils to attend
- Thursday 3rd September** - School Photos All Years
- Friday 23rd October** - School Closed INSET 1
- Thursday 26th November** - Form Tutor Academic Review Day
- Friday 27th November** - School Closed - Occasional Day
- Friday 18th December** - End of Term

Golf

As part of their PE curriculum, a selection of our students have been enjoying weekly visits to Essendon Golf Club, where they have been developing an exciting range of golfing skills in a fun and supportive environment. From perfecting their swing to improving their focus, coordination and confidence, the progress they have made has been wonderful to see. Just as importantly, students have worked together to encourage one another, celebrate successes and overcome challenges as a team. Learning a new skill can be both rewarding and challenging and our students have embraced every session with enthusiasm, determination and plenty of smiles. Their positivity and willingness to try something new have made these weekly golf lessons a real highlight and we are incredibly proud of their achievements both on and off the course.



From everyone at Knightsfield, have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September!